

Life Membership Is Still 'Bargain of a Lifetime'

FEBRUARY 1987

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MAGAZINE



VAVS at 40

The Golden Thread of Care

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406 West 34th
Kansas City
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CONTENTS



Some 15,000 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members take part in the VA Voluntary Service program in the agency's facilities throughout the country. They are part of the network of 85,000 VA volunteers who contribute 12.5 million hours of regularly scheduled volunteer time each year. Last November, VAVS marked its 40th anniversary in Washington with programs related to the future of veterans' care and honors to the organizations and individuals who take part. A VFW-sponsored youth volunteer from Bay Pines, Fla., was chosen for the \$3,000 Parke award for his 3,000 hours of service. The VFW, Auxiliary, MOC and MOCA were honored for their work. The VFW has been active in VAVS since its inception in 1946. Photo is by Tal Wilson.

VAVS at 40: The Golden Thread of Caring by James K. Anderson. Last November, the VA Voluntary Service marked four decades of assisting veterans in VA hospitals. In a related story, the VFW-sponsored Jeff Carrington, youth volunteer winner, is profiled.

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Life Membership: Still 'Bargain of a Lifetime.'

More than a fourth of the VFW's membership are men and women who have opted for Life Membership. Adopted in August, 1950, by delegates to the 51st National Encampment, this program has grown steadily. Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab sees it as a major benefit to the member, the Post, the Department and the National Organization.

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A Friend in Pennsylvania

by Larry Babitts. The Scotland School for Veterans' Children began because the Civil War governor of the state was appalled that children of dead and disabled soldiers were forced to beg. He found this out on Thanksgiving when two of them came to his door seeking food. After the war, he urged that youngsters such as these be cared for by those whom their fathers defended. Gov. Curtin cried out: "Let the widow and the orphan become, in fact and in truth, the children of the state." Established in 1866, it is open to children from 6 to 14 of Pennsylvania veterans, and the VFW is represented on its board of trustees appointed by the governor.

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Operation Homecoming: A Pilot Remembers

by Lt. John Felsher. Fourteen years ago this month, prisoners held by North Vietnam began coming home. This is the story of the mission to Hanoi to gather them up.

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A Day With Midway

by Gregg Jones. A newspaper correspondent in the Philippines tells of his experience landing on the Midway's deck and becoming a "tailhooker."

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National Nurse Shortage Harms VA



Norman G. Staab
VFW Commander-in-Chief

The Veterans Administration needs 9,200 nurses, but the nationwide nursing shortage is having serious consequences for the agency.

Illustrative of the dimensions of the problem is a recent wire service story from North Carolina that a community hospital is offering a \$500 reward to any employee who recommends a registered nurse the hospital can hire on a fulltime basis.

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), based in Kansas City only a few blocks from VFW National Headquarters, a study made two months ago by the American Hospital Association showed that 87% of its member hospitals reported a shortage of nurses. In addition, ANA said that enrollment in nursing schools is now down 9%, compared with 1985 figures. Complicating the problem are wider opportunities for women in all types of work, although many men are now entering the nursing field, and new areas of health care are attracting women who in an earlier era would have become nurses.

Although Americans now generally are healthier than ever before, and the percentage of older persons is increasing, Americans tend to suffer from more serious illnesses when they do need hospital care.

Accompanying this are an appar-

ent vast expansion in the number of intensive care beds and an increase in burnout among specialty nurses.

So now the VA has to compete with the private sector for the ever-shrinking number of nurses.

The VFW was under the impression that PL 96-330, enacted in 1980, had provided the means for a long-term solution to the problem, but it is evident that PL 96-330 did not.

The law recognized that a nationwide nursing shortage in the late 1970s was reaching the critical point, and mandated a pilot program and study of VA recruitment and retention of nurses — registered, licensed practical or vocational, and nursing assistants.

Three core areas were found: too few to do the job, lack of tuition reimbursement to upgrade skills and inadequate support services to enable the nurse to concentrate on the patient.

The current shortage began on the West Coast, particularly California, spread to Midwestern urban areas, jumped to the East Coast and is now appearing in the South.

Last November when the VFW pointed out the seriousness of the

Last November when the VFW pointed out the seriousness of the situation in California, senior officials in the Chief Medical Director's Office seemed surprised. This reaction was unusual since VFW Field Representatives had reported the condition to authorities in the VA Central Office.

situation in California, senior officials in the Chief Medical Director's Office seemed surprised. This reaction was unusual since VFW Field

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Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab was the principal speaker at the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty last October. In the center is Adjutant Gen. Howard Vander Clute, Jr.

Photo by Vern Pall



Don Liston, a disabled Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war, poses with an antelope he shot in Montana as the guest of Doonan Gulch Outfitters. He won the trip, paid for by Electric Mobility Corp. and Veteran's Village, in a drawing sponsored by VFW Magazine. Liston is a member of Post 1433, Glendale, Ariz.

Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Set

The VA is encouraging citizens nationwide to participate in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans during the week beginning Feb. 9.

Inviting individuals and groups to visit patients in VA medical facilities, VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage said, "These men and women who have sacrificed so much in the defense of our country deserve to receive the personal appreciation of their fellow citizens."

First Lady Nancy Reagan is serving as honorary patron of the annual observance. Ernest Borgnine, a World War II veteran, is chairman of the weeklong program. Borgnine served in the U.S. Navy from 1935 to 1945.

Organizations and individuals interested in demonstrating their gratitude and respect for hospitalized veterans can call or visit the nearest VA medical facility.

The VA operates the nation's largest health care system. More than 1.3 million veterans are treated annually in VA medical centers. The system includes 172 medical centers, 228 outpatient clinics, 116 nursing homes and 16 domiciliaries.

VFW 'Notch' Position

In response to many inquiries from VFW members regarding the organization's position on the Social Security "notch," the text of Resolution 315 adopted by delegates to the 87th National Convention follows:

Notch Babies Social Security Discrimination

WHEREAS, over 14 million people nationwide are being deprived of up to \$180 a month in Social Security payments because they were born between 1917-1921; and

WHEREAS, these years are a gap or "Notch" in the Social Security eligibility calendar created in 1977 by Congressional action to save the system from bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, those persons born in the five years, 1917-1921, period were admittedly discriminated against in the formula; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 87th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to correct this injustice done to those Americans born between 1917-1921; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on Congress to act immediately to correct this regrettable mistake.

This was the second consecutive year in which delegates acted on this problem, although in neither year was any specific bill before Congress cited for support.



Official publication of the
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

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To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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Postmaster: Forward Form 3579 to Circulation Dept., VFW Magazine Broadway at 34th St.
Kansas City, MO. 64111

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Address all communications for publication to The Editor, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

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ISSN 0161-0598

Tahoe's Kill

Although the USS Ward (December) fired the first shot and sank the first Japanese warship, its action was, technically, before we entered WWII. The first American surface ship to sink a Japanese warship, a submarine, after war was declared was the Tahoe, a merchant marine garbage scow, on Dec. 12, 1941, nine miles southwest of the Farallon Islands, Capt. William Vartnav commanding.

When the periscope appeared dead ahead and coming out of the sea, the conning tower was clearly Japanese. The Tahoe was just a scow, a converted wooden schooner. The captain held his course to ram and came down hard on the sub. A violent wrenching under the keel and bubbles with an oil slick told the story. Twelve crew members witnessed the event.

However, the commandant of the 12th Naval District would not credit

the kill. After all, the Tahoe was just a scow, and not even a warship of the U.S. Navy. How would that look in history?

But, the Oakland Scavenger Co. collected \$2,000 insurance for damages to 75 feet of hull. — *PPC Ray Konrad, Post 6896, 8977 Linville, Livonia, Mich. 48150.*

Capt. Williams's article about the USS Ward (DD-139) was fine reading. It intertwined with your cover theme of memories.

After serving aboard the USS Aaron Ward (DD-483) (no relation), which was sunk at Guadalcanal by bombing, it rekindled fond memories. The crew's picture reminds us of how we looked and of our youth. If muster were held today, one wonders how many of these fro-

zen in the mind faces would answer roll call. The Aaron Ward's last encounter was President Kennedy's first. He witnessed it from an LST. Our adolescent years were spent adding to our memory bank, when normally they're spent on street corners or local events. The war years did enrich our memories; they are grist for the windmills of the mind, and treasures that shall have no heirs. — *John Bodrog, 714 Broad St., Florence, N.J. 08518.*

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C O M M A N D P O S T

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Representatives had reported the condition to authorities in the VA Central Office. A VFW report on a November, 1985, visit to a large VA medical center recommended that the VA Central Office "stretch the budget wherever feasible, to allow the medical center to compete for personnel." In a March, 1986, report, it was suggested that "some incentive offering appears to be essential"—in other words, pay more money.

A VFW report of last June found that recruitment and retention "problems have resulted from the heavy workload at this station, no tuition reimbursement, lack of an educational funding program, parking and the heavy concentration of community hospitals in the area."

Thus, the same three core areas of dissatisfaction noted in the 1970s still exist.

To exacerbate the problem, the Nursing Scholarship Program authorized by PL 96-330 and subsequent legislation was allowed to lapse because no additional funding was requested.

The VA had the means to attempt a longterm solution, but opted apparently for a quick fix after carrying out the studies required by PL 96-330 in 1980. The VFW assumes that as soon as the situation improved, the VA eased up and began pinching pennies. Thus, innovative programs to keep nurses from leaving the agency died.

Apparently, the quick fix is back. An urgent Special Salary Rate Request Review Process has been launched, and the VFW has been assured that action is being taken in areas where the VA is losing nurses and running futile help-wanted ads.

For the longterm to prevent cyclical shortages, the VA has launched a Survey of Health Occupational Staff that will assess recruitment and retention trends among several VA health occupations.

It is the VFW opinion that this may be too late, but in any event, this organization will watch closely to assure that this study is carried out properly.

The VA has shown initiative in the past, as in the case of Puerto Rico where nurses were recruited and where there was an excess of them. They were brought to VA facilities in California. It is hoped that such ideas are being considered now.

Meanwhile, beds are disappearing from the system, and the VFW is told that wards are not being closed but that selected beds are merely being taken out of service. ■

WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

House and Senate Have New Leaders: Jim Wright, the new Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was first elected to Congress at 31. The Texan is now serving his 17th consecutive term and authored major foreign affairs, economic development, water conservation, education and energy legislation. He has been a leading force in Congress for the creation of a major synthetic fuels capability and reestablishment of American energy independence. Elected majority leader in a close contest with three others in 1976, Wright since then has been reelected unanimously four times to this No. 2 post in the House.

Wright was born in Fort Worth, the city he represents in Congress today. He finished public school in ten years and was on his way toward wrapping up college in three years when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Enlisting in the Army Air Corps, Wright received his pilot's wings and commission at 19. He flew combat missions in the South Pacific and holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Legion of Merit.

At war's end, Wright was elected to the Texas Legislature at 23. He became the youngest mayor in Texas when voters chose him at 26 to head the city government in Weatherford, his boyhood home.

As evidence of the esteem in which he is held by the people of Texas's 12th District, Wright was unopposed in either primaries or general elections for ten years beginning in 1964. Then, challenged in the 1974 general election by an extremely well-financed opponent, Wright received 79% of the vote and carried every one of the 123 precincts in his district by a wide margin. His victories since then have been similarly impressive. In a confidential survey conducted by U.S. News and World Report in 1980, each member of the House was asked to choose the most respected member of the body and the most persuasive debater. Wright won in both categories.

Robert Byrd, the new Senate majority leader, was born in 1917 in North Wilkesboro, N.C. Byrd was orphaned by the widespread influenza epidemic that struck down millions in the wake of World War I. Taken to West Virginia at three by his aunt and uncle to be reared as their own, the future senator grew up in various communities in the bituminous coal fields. He was graduated as valedictorian of his high school class in the depth of the Depression of the 1930s.

Unable then to afford college, Byrd worked pumping gas at a service station, sold produce and then became a meat cutter.

One skill he learned well was welding, an essential demand in World War II. Byrd worked during the war years building Liberty and Victory ships in the

construction yards of Baltimore and Tampa.

At war's end, Byrd returned to West Virginia and in 1946 made his first run for political office. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates. After two terms, he was elected to the West Virginia Senate, then to the U.S. House of Representatives for three terms, and finally, in 1958, to the U.S. Senate, where he has represented West Virginia continuously ever since. His winning margins in statewide elections set records. He has served longer in the Senate than anyone else in West Virginia's history.

In addition to fulfilling his Senate responsibilities, he earned his law degree from American University in Washington in 1963 after ten years of night school. This was the first time that a senator accomplished that feat while in office.

In 1967, Sen. Byrd became part of the Senate leadership when he was elected by his party colleagues as secretary of the Democratic Conference. In 1971, he was chosen Senate Democratic Whip, and in 1977, Senate Democratic Leader, an honor Democratic senators have bestowed on him four consecutive times since. During his career, Sen. Byrd has supported a strong and practical national defense, as well as wise national energy policies for the country that emphasize the effective development and use of oil, gas and coal reserves, based on balanced environmental policies. He also has advocated efforts to revitalize American industry, capture more overseas markets for American products, create more jobs for American workers and rebuild America's highways, bridges, railroads and factories. In addition, he has fought long to strengthen Social Security and has supported Medicare and other programs for older Americans, as well as general programs to help states provide health services and stimulate more jobs.

Social Security Numbers for Children: The Tax Reform Act of 1986 (section 1524) requires taxpayers to show a Social Security number for each dependent 5 and over whom they claim for tax purposes beginning with returns filed in 1988 and later. The provision is designed to reduce tax evasion in case both parents filing separate returns claim the dependent for tax purposes. This is a growing area of revenue loss, Internal Revenue Service officials say.

Because of the possibility the huge volume of applications may create bottlenecks in Social Security offices, schools and community organizations are being asked to assist in taking applications for Social Security numbers. The Social Security office will provide more detailed information on the nearest place for applying for a Social Security number in the near future.

WASHINGTON WIRE

SERVICE

Beneficiary Travel: Reimbursement for travel expenses to and from a VA medical center or other medical facility has been a virtual entitlement for many years for service connected veterans and those non-service connected veterans who receive VA pensions who both need and request it. It was available also to low income non-service connected veterans.

This travel reimbursement or beneficiary travel is not mandated by Congress. Rather, the VA Administrator may make such payment under current law.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has targeted beneficiary travel for extinction. It found a not too unwilling but junior partner in the Veterans Administration.

OMB opened the first round by confronting the VA with a \$100 million cut in funds needed to support beneficiary travel. Faced with having to continue funding it out of its own hide from direct health care monies, the VA began to churn out scenarios to reduce it.

The VFW recognized the plan and approved Resolution 619 at the 87th National Convention last August. It called for complete restoration of beneficiary travel funding. This is now a VFW national mandate and is on record as such with the proper governmental and Congressional authorities.

The VA's plan for the future of beneficiary travel was recently published in the Federal Register for comment by interested parties. Its proposal is the same as the virtual elimination of the program except to those requiring medically indicated specialized means of transportation. This sweeping proposed change would be a barrier to many veteran patients who depend on travel reimbursement for access to medical care.

All of these VFW objections have been relayed to the VA Administrator.

SECURITY

Defense Department Reorganization: Late last November, the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act went into effect. Named after the retiring chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Barry Goldwater, and Rep. Bill Nichols who steered the bill through the House, the Reorganization Act fulfills a long term VFW mandate to strengthen the military voice in the Pentagon. The new law also responds 30 years later to the goals Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower outlined for the new Defense Department in 1947.

Bill's heart is the increased authority given those in uniform who operate in the joint arena such as the Joint Chiefs of Staff and therefore have a vested interest in promoting unified interests rather than just the interests of their individual services.

The bill does this by conferring added authority at three points.

The JCS chairman now becomes the senior man in uniform in substance as well as in theory. Previously, it was leadership by committee. The new act designates the chairman, not the committee, as the principal military adviser to the President and Defense Secretary. The act gives the chairman the responsibility for developing strategic and contingency plans and budget proposals. In the past the services wrote the plans and budgets after logrolling that led to lowest common denominator positions. To carry out his duties, the chairman would, for the first time, gain authority over the Joint Staff. To date it has been directed by the corporate body of the JCS (all of the service chiefs). Gen. David Jones, the former chairman who kicked off the reorganization when he complained the system was not working, once commented that as chairman he commanded little more than his secretary and personal aide. The chairman is not given dictatorial authority. Final decisions rest constitutionally with the commander-in-chief, who is the President. The act guarantees each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff access to the President to make known any disagreements with the chairman's advice.

The National Security Act of 1947 led to the creation of a series of commands that would actually fight any future war. The services were to recruit, train and arm troops, turn them over to the commanders-in-chief of the unified commands who would direct the operations of personnel of all the services. Service interests prevented the commanders-in-chief from getting adequate authority. The new act gives the unified commander veto power over his subordinates for the first time.

In the past, officers detailed to joint duty were subject to pressures from their services to conform to service policy. The act creates a group of joint specialist officers whose primary duty will be joint operations. To protect their promotions, boards considering these officers must include at least one officer with a joint specialty and named by the JCS chairman, who will review all the promotion board actions involving joint officers so that he can intervene if he feels a service is seeking to punish a joint specialty officer.

Perhaps the most controversial item in the House version of the bill was the Hopkins amendment. It repealed the Navy's independent operating authority. Current law gives the Navy authority over naval reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare and protection of shipping, a provision the Navy could use to argue that units engaged in those activities should not come under a unified command, which would undermine the goals of the act.

Life Membership: Still the Bargain of a Lifetime



Commander-in-Chief Ray Brannaman, 1948-49, the "father of VFW Life Membership."

Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Brannaman is credited with starting Life Membership, and he received Life Member Card No 1. Starting with 86 in 1951, now a fourth of VFW members are on the Life Membership roll. "It benefits the individual member, the Post, the Department and the National Organization," says Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, whose own Post has long stressed it in recruiting members.

When delegates to the 51st National VFW Encampment, as Conventions were called then, met in Chicago, the Korean War had entered its second month, and American and South Korean troops were barely hanging on to the tiny Pusan perimeter. The picture was bleak.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur had sent the National Encampment a message implying criticism of the Truman Administration, and he had been ordered to withdraw it.

Therefore, then Commander-in-Chief Clyde Lewis did not read it to the delegates, but the cat was out of the bag anyway. Its text appeared in a weekly newsmagazine to the consternation of official Washington.

On top of that, Strom Thurmond,

then governor of South Carolina and 1948 States' Rights candidate for president, delivered a caustic speech that several delegates criticized on the floor as political.

Amid all the headline-grabbing turmoil of that week, a National By-Law change was adopted that would have implications for the VFW far more lasting than the passions aroused by the MacArthur and Thurmond speeches.

Three proposed amendments to the By-Laws had been introduced to establish a Life Membership program, one by the Department of Washington, one by the Department of Wisconsin and one by Past Commander-in-Chief Ray A. Brannaman.

The By-Laws committee recommended adoption of Brannaman's,

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

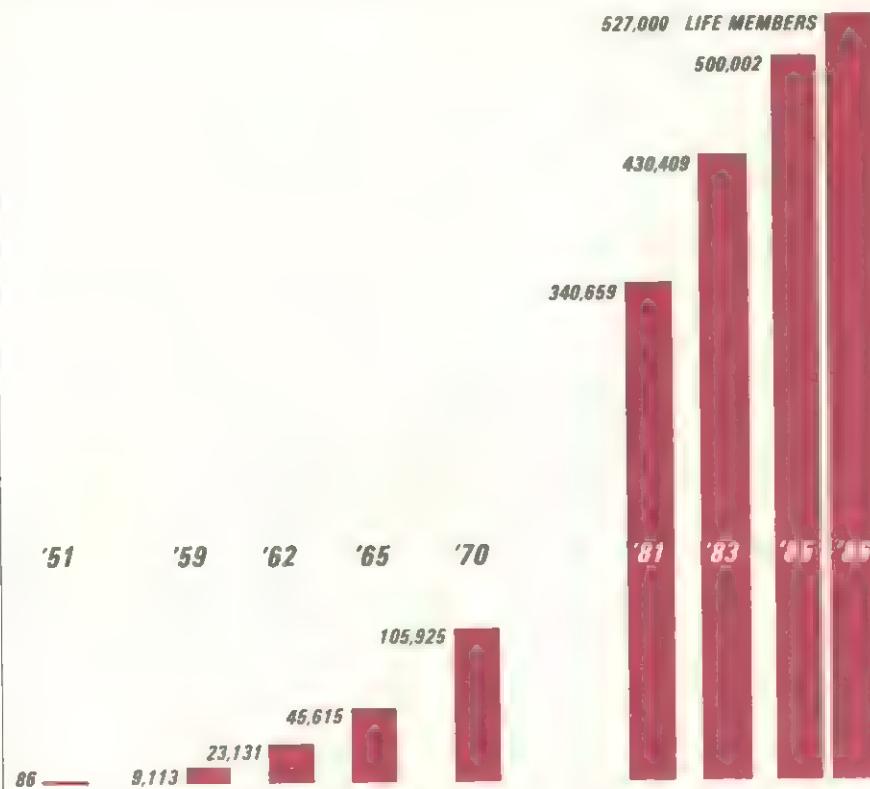
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was overshadowed by the spectacular events of the 51st National Encampment, the impact on the organization was immense.

Significant also was the increase in active, or still living, Life Members from the 1982 total of 388,015 to 430,409 in 1983. Reason for this was

Membership had shot up to nearly 1.6 million in 1946, but by 1950 it had fallen to 1.1 million, and it would not be until the late 1950s that the trend would be reversed.

Starting with 86 at its inception, the Life Membership program climbed slowly, even during the years of



inclusion of a Life Membership application with the dues notice for the first time.

Two years ago, the VFW exceeded the half-million mark in Life Membership when 1985's active total reached 500,002, although the gross total of 539,816 had been achieved in 1984, but this figure includes those who died since the program's establishment.

For the VFW in 1950-51, Life Membership was seen, and still is, as one way of retaining those who already had joined. Attrition had set in in 1950 after the large membership gains that had been made in the immediate post-World War II years. Settling down, raising families, finding jobs took precedence for many veterans over VFW membership.

either a slight loss as in 1950 or a slight gain in overall membership.

By 1952, the Life Member total had reached 741, and in 1959, it had climbed to 9,113. Of course in those early years, with the lower fee, older veterans predominated. Nearly 4,000, however, were World War II and Korean War veterans.

One major factor in the growth was the appointment in 1957 of the National Committee to Promote Life Membership, with Brannaman as chairman.

In his 1959 report to the National Convention in Los Angeles, he deplored the fact that approximately 70% of the Posts had no Life Members, though the total was 9,113.

continued on page 18

Life Membership The Key, Says Staab

One of Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab's VFW memories is of the year his Post 6240 in Russell, Kans., became the largest Life Member Post in the country.

That was in 1974 when John Stang, a member of Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kans., was elected Commander-in-Chief, and some of those attending his homecoming celebration were entertained by Post 6240, which is 50 or so miles northeast of LaCrosse.

"We had beaten the four biggest Life Member Posts in the world, and all of us were thrilled because Post 3147 and Post 1114 in Evansville, Ind.; 2100 in Everett, Wash., 1865 in Kenosha, Wis., and the one in Naha, Okinawa, had been the traditional leaders," Staab recalled.

"I remember that Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Brannaman came to the Post during that homecoming and gave us his famous horsecollar award. The VFW owes a great deal to him for getting Life Membership started."

Staab said Post 6240 continued its lead but dropped off eventually.

"Now we have 1,052 Life Members in Post 6240 out of a total of 1,177, and I always tell VFW audiences to work hard to encourage Life Membership because it benefits the individual member and the Post as well."

"I remind everyone to carry membership applications wherever they go because you can't do the job without the tools."

When Staab was Kansas Department Commander, Post 6240 dedicated its home in 1971, and had another reason to celebrate, he remembered.

"That was the year Post 6240 became the largest Life Member Post in Kansas and the fourth largest in the world. We had 392 Life Members out of 823 total."

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

continued from page 16

Although Brannaman did not give the figures, he announced that California led Departments in Life Membership, followed closely by Ohio. Eighteen others were listed. Posters promoting Life Membership had been distributed throughout the organization, and Life Members were urged by mail to recruit others.

A time-payment plan for the "bargain of a lifetime" adopted at the 1959 National Convention was credited with increasing the total to 13,298 when the 1960 National Convention opened.

Commander-in-Chief Robert E. Hansen made Life Membership a part of the overall VFW membership program in 1962, and Brannaman reported 23,131 Life Members at the end of that May. This represented a gain of 5,408. In 1961, the Perpetual Charter program was established to

honor any Post with 25 or more Life Members since 25 are required to form a Post. By Convention time, 201 Posts had received Perpetual Charters.

Brannaman attributed part of that year's success to the appointment of Chris C. Herrman, of Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kans., as vice chairman of the Committee to Promote Life Membership.

Herrman's home Post, which is also that of Past Commander-in-Chief John Stang, led the organization in Life Membership at least for two years, according to Quartermaster General records. In 1962, it had 125, followed by Post 2000 in New York, which reported 124. In that same year, Post 112 in Wichita, Kans., had 106, giving it a place among the top ten. Three years later, Post 3147's total of 182 put it

at the peak.

Recalling those years, Herrman, Kansas Department Commander in 1958-59, said, "Ray Brannaman instilled in me the need for a strong Life Member program when I was Department Commander."

Life Membership, he said, was one of the major factors in his successful year as Department Commander, climaxed by his achieving All American status.

"Ray Brannaman was a common man, and he knew how to appeal to the members," Herrman said. "I remember how he would so often remind the whole membership of how important it was for the VFW to grow and grow in strength if we wanted any action in Washington. And it still is.

"But on Life Membership, over and over, he would stress the fact

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that, by becoming a Life Member, a VFW member would not have to pay dues every year, and the cost would be the same. Once you were a Life Member, you were all set.

"Ray Brannaman spent a lot of time and effort spreading the word on Life Membership. He always stressed that when the momentum starts, you have to stay with it. He certainly was right. Without him, we might not have a Life Membership program today."

Throughout the 1960s, Life Membership continued to increase: 45,615 in 1965, and finally in 1970 the figure had passed the 100,000 mark to reach 113,657, but, of these, 7,732 had died or become otherwise inactive since 1950, so the net total was 105,925.

In 1965, Wallace L. Trimpey became committee chairman, with

Brannaman staying on as a consultant. Two years later, Trimpey reported that 45 Posts had 100 or more Life Members, and for the first time a Post was singled out for special mention. It was Post 1865 in Kenosha, Wis., with 272 Life Members, the largest in the nation. In 1968, Perpetual Charter Posts reached 965. Kenosha's Post 1865, with 343, continued to lead.

Two others were cited. They were Post 2100, Everett, Wash., with 284, and Post 9723, Naha, Okinawa, with 275. California led the Departments with 6,121, while Illinois and Ohio were second and third. Colorado, Brannaman's home Department, was reported as having the highest percentage of Life Members compared to total membership.

When the number of Life Members reached 124,000 in 1971 — actually,

the net was 114,716 because nearly 10,000 had died — Quartermaster Gen. J.A. Cheatham reported that in the program's two decades, \$10.7 million had been collected in Life Member fees.

Since the adoption of the original Life Membership program in 1950, two major changes in the program have been made. They were revisions in the fee schedule to reflect more realistically current economic conditions and to enable the various levels of the organization to realize a larger income from the fees.

Life Membership began with little fanfare, but in 35 years it has grown to the point where it now accounts for more than a fourth of the organization's membership.

The bargain of a lifetime? You bet, just ask the half million VFW members who are Life Members. ■

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A Friend in Pennsylvania



The oldest Scotland School for Veterans' Children building was erected in 1895 as the centerpiece of the 198-acre residential school.

By Larry Babitts

Just as Gov. Curtin was preparing to leave for church services on Thanksgiving morning during the third year of the Civil War, a knock was heard on the door of Pennsylvania's State Mansion.

Unusual for him, the governor answered the knock himself.

Standing amidst the swirling snow were two young children asking for bread. They told the governor their father had died in a recent battle and their mother had succumbed to some plague-like disease. No record of Curtin's immediate reaction has been left, but this incident bothered him throughout the evening's festivities.

"Great God! Is it possible that the people of Pennsylvania can feast on this day, while children of her fallen soldiers, fallen in this awful war, beg

bread from door to door?" he is recorded as saying.

Some years later at a meeting in Philadelphia, Curtin pointed out the unfairness of forcing any orphans of soldiers to ask for charity in view of the pledges made when soldiers were being recruited.

"Let the widow and the orphan become, in fact and in truth, the children of the state," he urged. "Let the defenders of our commonwealth know that the country will provide for their helpless survivors."

In response to this emotional plea, the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad offered \$50,000 for the care of the orphaned children of the state's soldiers.

Since there had never been such an institution anywhere in the nation up to then, the legislators

fought such a proposal to care for the "soldiers' brats." They wanted them "bound out" as apprentices or laborers. Girls would be retained until 18, boys until 21.

Understanding the nature of the welfare programs offered, Curtin used the donated money to found a statewide system of residential schools to care for these unwanted children.

From 1866 until the creation of the school and home in Scotland, Pa., in 1895, the fortunes of the Civil War orphans waxed and waned with the public sentiment towards children.

The Scotland School for Veterans' Children, the new name for the old Soldiers Orphans Industrial School, became the model for a network of such institutions throughout the commonwealth. Since 1912, it has been the only such residential school in the state.

The Scotland School for Veterans' Children still exists on the old farm purchased with the grant from the railroad men and presently houses and educates more than 370 veterans' children.

Today, the child or children, 6 to 14, of any honorably discharged Pennsylvania veteran may be enrolled at Scotland School. The child or children must be reasonably healthy with normal mentality and be recommended for admission by an officer of a recognized veterans' organization.

All recognized veterans' organizations support this institution and cooperate with the school on administrative and policy matters. The two largest organizations, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, are represented on the board of trustees appointed by the incumbent governor. The VFW is represented by Past Department Commander and current National Council of Administration member Dr. Ray Mullin.

The various veterans' organizations sponsor Christmas, Easter and



A counseling intern from nearby Shippensburg University, Jo Ellen Nield, chats with B.J. Matrisclano, of Philadelphia, in the residential area of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children.

other parties and social events, as well as the senior prom and donation of rings to each graduating senior. Veterans' groups also achieved creation of a mandatory Army Junior ROTC program on campus.

In its four years, the Junior ROTC program has reached a level of success usually reserved for much older programs, remarked an Army inspector recently following the regular biennial inspection.

Scotland School offers a complete academic and vocational training program.

Nor are sports neglected. A full inter-scholastic sports program includes football, basketball, baseball, track, and girls' hockey and basketball. A smallbore rifle team and club were initiated last year.

Scotland School also offers training in choral and instrumental music. Its marching band is well-regarded. Driver education also is available to selected senior high school students.

"Any veteran who knows of a family or of a veteran's child who could be served by this state residential school should contact our admissions officer," said Lt. Col. Francis J. Calverase USA (Ret.), the school superintendent. "A brief note to us in Scotland, Pa., or a telephone call will do." Address is Scotland School for Veterans' Children, Scotland, Pa. 17254. The telephone number is 717-264-7187. ■

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Operation Homecoming: A Pilot Remembers

By Lt. John Felsher

A lone C-130 lumbered up the Red River valley. Not the peaceful river separating Oklahoma from Texas, but the other Red River valley, halfway around the world in Southeast Asia. The unarmed cargo aircraft was flying into an area considered the most heavily defended airspace in the history of aerial conflict. Its destination was Hanoi, capital of North Vietnam.

Though American aircraft were a fairly common sight over North Vietnam in the early '70s, including some on missions over "downtown" Hanoi, this one was vastly different. The C-130 was the vanguard of Operation Homecoming, the historic release of American prisoners of war from their Communist captors. It was one of the most emotional military operations conducted by the U.S. Air Force. It would mark an end of America's direct involvement in the nation's longest conflict.

The C-130, piloted by then-Capt. Thomas G. Moore, landed at Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi. It carried the advance support group for the first 20 American prisoners of war to regain their freedom from Communist captivity in the Vietnam War. The date was Feb. 19, 1973.

This was the fourth time since the cease-fire was signed in January of the same year that an American C-130 landed at Hanoi. It was the second time for Capt. Moore, currently a lieutenant-colonel and commander of the 8th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

The first three missions carried media people and State Department delegates, medical personnel and international inspectors who negotiated repatriation of the prisoners.

But this Feb. 19 flight was especially sensitive.

A bloody shooting war was still going on in Vietnam, and a sense of



Exterior view of the "Hanoi Hilton" prisoner of war camp. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

apprehension thickened the air. Advanced technology Soviet anti-aircraft artillery and precision guided missiles, capable of knocking a B-52 bomber out of the stratosphere, lined the narrow corridor into North Vietnam.

"All of us were a little bit on edge, remembering that just a few weeks ago they were shooting at us. Right now, low and slow over North Vietnam was not a comfortable place to be," Col. Moore said.

Each C-130 was given specific flight path and altitude instructions going into and out of North Vietnam. Careful flight plans were filed and maintained by Americans and Vietnamese. Special frequencies were used for radio communication.



American prisoners of war disembark a bus at Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi, to board an aircraft for evacuation to Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines during March 1973. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

The aircraft flew from Clark Air Base in the Philippines and over the Gulf of Tonkin and North Vietnam by way of the Red River to Hanoi. The Vietnamese designed this routing to restrict American aircraft from gathering intelligence on past bombings and to control American aircraft in North Vietnamese airspace.

Heavy overcast obscured much of the country on the historic repatriation mission. Col. Moore descended to 1,000 feet to penetrate cloud cover on approaching Hanoi. This maneuver allowed excellent opportunities for photography. "We were taking pictures like crazy," he said.

Pilot and crew could see undamaged temples, buildings and a few vehicles and riverboats outside the city. "I expected vast areas of bombed out places, flattened villages and such," Moore said.

Instead, only industrial areas of the city itself appeared damaged. "The only areas that I can truthfully say I saw any kind of damage were in urban areas, the manufacturing, industrial end. Several factories were flattened. You could hardly make out what types of buildings had been there. All that remained was brick and rubble and several smokestacks. Our precision bombing apparently was as good as we thought."

Much new construction had been hastily erected for the benefit of Western media, the pilot said. Building fronts were fixed and beautified while the rest of the area was largely devastated. Bridges across the river were knocked down; only pontoon bridges were in use.

Moore landed his ground command control aircraft two hours before a C-141 jet transport which was scheduled to bring the former prisoners back to the free world. Part of his crew duties would include

escorting the released prisoners to the awaiting jet.

Prisoners were lined up on the flightline at Hanoi Airport. As their names were read, they walked to an American colonel who confirmed their identity and welcomed them back. They walked over and spoke to another Air Force colonel, a doctor, who asked if they were okay. A C-130 crewman then accompanied each former POW to freedom — a walk to the waiting C-141.

The escorting crew members had strict orders not to reach out and grasp the returning servicemen. They would walk beside them to the aircraft, available in case any POW needed to reach out his own hand for assistance. But the escorts could in no way help them along.

"We were purposely briefed not to put our arms around them, to avoid the appearance of dragging them away from a place they did not want to leave," Moore said. He adds that not one of the released prisoners needed any assistance in his walk to freedom.

As Moore described it, "They would walk smartly up to the colonel, salute him in extremely sharp, stylish military form even though they looked terribly weak. They snapped the salute. The colonel returned it, shook hands and said something like 'welcome home.'

"We tried to give them an indication that no longer would they have to worry about anything. We would take care of them."

Moore described the former prisoners as "pale, shaky, wobbly-legged, with sunken eyes; unsteady and under extremely great emotional strain."

Moore was privileged to escort Capt. John Davies, shot down in 1967. "He was very pale with light sandy hair," Moore said. "He looked as though he weighed 20 or 30



Lt. Col. Lewis W. Shattuck is greeted by the Gia Lam Airport returnee delegation upon his release from a prisoner of war camp. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

pounds less than he should and as though he had never seen the sun. He had a firm grip and slow, precise speech."

Pointing to the C-130, Capt. Davies said, "That sure is a good sight." He also said that he hadn't known if he was getting out of Vietnam that day. In the short walk to the transport, he told his story.



Maj. Norman A. McDaniel (now a colonel) is greeted by the Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi, returnee delegation upon his release from a prisoner of war camp in March 1973. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

His captors marched him and 19 other Americans out of the camp to wait about 45 minutes until a small bus arrived. Only ten were allowed on the bus. As it drove away, the ten remaining prisoners, including Capt. Davies, were told they would not be allowed to go home. Overwhelmed with disappointment, they were marched back to their cells.

An hour later, another bus returned and loaded up the ten remaining Americans and took them out to the airport. They watched the C-141 Starlifter land but had to wait another 45 minutes before going to the release point.

Moore said to Davies, "It seems they like to play their games right up to the last minute."

"That's not unusual," he answered. "They've been doing that all these years."

As he walked to the plane for his last ride over Vietnam, Davies turned to Moore and said, "I may forget your name, but you're the best looking face I've seen in years. Oh well! The hell with all of them." He then climbed into the aircraft.

"The total experience affected me greatly," said Col. Moore. "I was extremely proud of the fact that I was involved in this operation. It was a great emotional thing for me. Those special few moments made all the months of flying combat missions worthwhile."

"Regardless of what else I've done, before or since, I had a small, insignificant part in helping one person survive and get back to freedom," the colonel said.

About the Author:

John Felsher is the chief of public affairs for the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

A Day With the Midway

By Gregg Jones

The small Navy plane bounced like a carnival ride as we dropped toward the heaving aircraft carrier Midway in the South China Sea. My apprehension rose as we fell.

Suddenly, there was a teeth-rattling collision — something had gone wrong, I thought. The plane had slammed into the steel-plated deck, aiming for the second of three 3-inch thick steel cables that we hoped would brake our landing. The pilot missed all three.

With a full throttle, he pulled the plane up quickly and climbed above the carrier. We were 50 miles off the northern Philippine coast, and the plane was stuffy in the tropical heat. The unsettling collision with the deck had done little to soothe me.

A couple of seconds later, I bounced like a rag doll as the plane angled into the carrier deck for a second time. Again, we missed all three cables and climbed into an arc.

By this time, sweat was pouring



off me. I was fighting a losing battle against air sickness, and my misery had outstripped any fear of crashing. I wanted down any way possible.

For a third time I felt the brutal impact of the plane meeting the deck. The collision was followed by a tremendous jerk that threw me backward against my seat facing the tail. I had survived a carrier landing.

A few minutes later, I smiled weakly as the USS Midway's executive officer, Capt. William Hood, Jr., described a carrier landing as a "controlled crash."

The Midway, a 40-year-old veteran that patrols the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, is an amazing floating city-airport complex. The ship carries 80 planes and a crew of nearly 5,000. It weighs 65,000 tons and has a flight deck 1,000 feet long, sprawling over 4.02 acres.

In an age of nuclear missiles, the Navy's aircraft carriers still function as the United States's first line of overseas defense. By maintaining

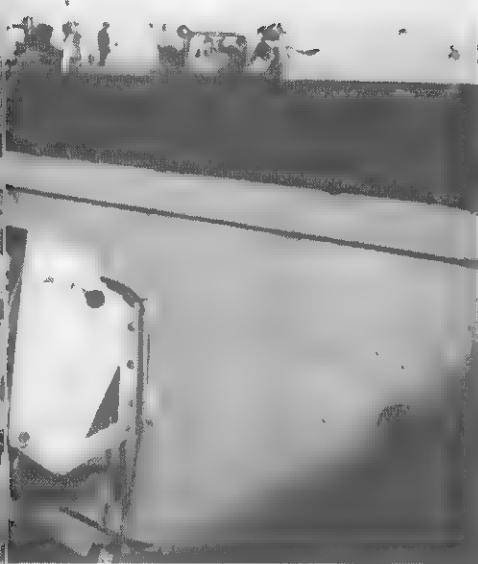
the huge floating airfields, the U.S. military polices the open seas and poses a deterrent to potential enemies, Hood said.

"The indisputable value of the carriers is their ability to operate without a land tether. There's worldwide mobility with carriers that you don't get anywhere else," he said.

Some Navy pilots make the cocky claim that they are the military's cream of the crop. While that may be debatable, there is no arguing the skill required — or risks involved — in the job of a carrier pilot. For starters, the pilot has only one-tenth of the runway used by a land-based aircraft for takeoff.

The carrier flightdeck is described by the Navy as the second most dangerous place to work in the world (behind high-rise construction). As many as 44 aircraft and 200 men crowd the deck, where searing jet blasts can incinerate a man or blow him overboard.

The movement on deck is frantic



plane out of the flight line with wings folded up.

Navy pilots agree that landing on a carrier is the most frightening part of the job. A slight error can mean death. A few months ago, a Midway pilot came in a shade too low. He missed a warning to pull up; his jet hit the end of the ship and disintegrated in a ball of fire.

"When you get in close to the deck, you know the only way to do it is to work as hard as you can. I still get sweaty palms," said Cdr. John Patton, 39, a native of Homer, La., who commands one of the Midway's five squadrons.

Added Hood, a veteran of 500 carrier landings, "Show me someone who doesn't get sweaty palms, and I'll show you someone who is about to be killed or get out of this business."

The last helicopter safely aboard, the flight deck is transformed into a new buzz of activity. Off-duty sailors, shirtless and clad in shorts, begin running laps around the flight deck while maintenance crews scour the high-performance aircraft.

As my day on the Midway came to a close, the moment of truth arrived. It was time for the catapult takeoff.

I sat strapped in my seat facing

the tail. Sweat poured from my face as I heard the clank of the catapult arm connecting to the plane's belly. The pilot opened the throttle, and the engines screamed.

Suddenly, I was thrown forward with a force five times that of gravity. My harness strained, and I wondered if I would be smashed into the seat in front of my face.

Just as suddenly, the force gave way and I could feel the plane lift into the air. We had covered the 200 feet of remaining deck at more than 150 miles per hour. It had lasted two seconds.

A spontaneous cheer erupted from the throats of a camera crew, and we exchanged relieved Navy thumbs-up.

Safely back on firm ground — the grateful beneficiary of a gentle tarmac landing — I clutched a certificate christening me an honorary Midway "tailhooker," Navy jargon for a survivor of a carrier landing at sea. I felt deserving of a medal, but the title of tailhooker would do. ■

About the Author:

Gregg Jones has been in the Philippines as a newspaper correspondent.



in its quickness but symphonic in its orchestration.

As the pilot opens the throttle, the deck shakes and the plane shudders.

A flight crew rolls under the jet for a final hasty check. As the crew scrambles to cover, a helmeted crew chief in yellow jacket checks for any warning signs — then flashes a thumbs-up to the pilot. With flames roaring from the exhaust, the jet hurdles down the deck for takeoff.

In exercises like those held recently off the Philippines by the Midway's Carrier Air Group 5 of the Navy's 7th Fleet, squadrons of fighters stay sharp by shooting missiles at drones and practicing air drills. Attack bombers drop 25-pound practice bombs in simulated attacks, while surveillance planes fly practice missions and helicopters practice anti-submarine warfare.

When the planes return from nearly two hours of exercises, they are quickly brought down, one every 45 seconds or less. A crew hustles the

VAVS: The Golden Thread of Caring

By James K. Anderson

The initials mean Veterans Administration Voluntary Service, but to hundreds of thousands of hospitalized veterans they stand for caring, sharing and concern.

Now into its fifth decade, VAVS was established in 1946, and ever since then the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been an integral part of the activities of these citizen-volunteers who give of their time, money and effort to make the period veterans spend in VA hospitals a little easier.

Not only do the 85,000 VAVS volunteers — nearly 15,000 of them VFW and Auxiliary members — help the veteran-patients directly, but they render invaluable service to the VA hospitals and other facilities by assisting the often-overworked staffs

with their work on a regular, assigned basis.

While VAVS looked back on its 40 years of work with veterans, the thrust of much of last November's four-day conference of the VAVS advisory committee was care for the aging veteran. More than 1,000 attended.

A major feather in the VFW's cap was selection of Jeffrey Carrington, 17, for the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, named for the VAVS first director and its founder.

Carrington, sponsored by the VFW Department of Florida, has devoted 3,000 hours as a hospital volunteer since 1980 at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center. He was chosen unanimously from among 41 other appli-



With the VFW National Color Guard standing at attention, the VA Voluntary Service 40th anniversary observance begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Photos by Robert D. Ward, of VA Central Office



cants for this year's \$3,000 scholarship.

Principal speaker at the opening session at the Sheraton Washington Hotel was Sen. Robert Dole, a severely disabled veteran and Life Member of Post 6240, Russell, Kans., the home Post of Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

"I have said so many times that we in Congress get so wrapped up in what we think is important that we forget what really is important," Dole said.

To him, Dole said, this means the work done by people like those in VAVS, which he recalled from his own experience after World War II.

"I appreciate the time and effort and the many things you do, but the only ones who really know your work are the ones you help," he continued. "I was in the hospital with a broken neck, and people had to help feed me. They were volunteers. Even overseas, I received help from volunteers."

"We know some of the things American volunteers do — whether it is an hour a day or a week. If they were looking for recognition, they would not be in the voluntary service.

"Some day, someone will help you because that is the way the system works. Despite an imperfect system, I don't know of any other country I want to stay in permanently."

Sen. Dole said he has established the Dole Foundation to assist disabled persons.

"For all of us in the United States government, we salute you for making life a little easier."

Sen. Dole was introduced by Dr. John A. Gronvall, acting VA chief medical director, who pinch hit for Administrator Thomas K. Turnage who was ill after a whirlwind tour of 35 VA hospitals.

Dole's commitment to the disabled goes back to World War II when he was wounded with the 10th Moun-

tain Division in Italy and spent three years in Army, VA and private hospitals, Gronvall said.

He added that helping one another has a long history in the U.S., and President Reagan is a strong supporter of the concept. A video-taped message from Reagan, praising the volunteers, was shown.

Mrs. James Osborne, the Salvation Army commissioner who chairs the executive committee of the VAVS advisory committee, said, "Volunteering is alive and well in America today, we agree with President Reagan. Personal initiative and caring are basic to Americans. The golden thread of caring motivates the voluntary service."

Marking 40 years of service, "We acknowledge the debt to those who preserved the country and those who are now serving," Commissioner Osborne said.

"This is a time to breathe new life and new beauty into what we are doing by developing creative ideas for tomorrow. To see the need is the first essential step in meeting a need. We will need to be prepared for service, to enlist others to coordinate and to speed the integration of resources for service."

"Faith, hope and love are eternal. Thank God, for liberty is the freedom to volunteer."

Special awards were presented volunteers by Mrs. Joan Lamb, Turnage's executive assistant for from 20,000 to 60,000 hours of regularly scheduled voluntary service.

In the evening, awards were presented to VAVS participating service organizations. Frederico Juarbe, Jr., VFW National Service Officer and Director of VFW National Veterans Service, accepted on behalf of the organization, while Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Joan Katkus accepted the Ladies Auxiliary award.

Awards also went to the Military Order of the Cootie and its Auxiliary.

At the second session, after the Colors were posted by the VFW National Color Guard, Dr. Arthur Lewis, VA acting deputy chief medical director, said he learned at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn., the value of volunteers, especially in providing transportation for veterans who lived long distances from the hospital.

"The caring of the volunteers made a critical difference," he said.

Dr. Lewis said the 85,000 in VAVS represented by the more than 1,000 at the 40th anniversary conference donate 12.5 million hours of time valued at from \$70 million to \$100 million if it were paid for.

"But the dollar value misses the point altogether," he said. "Your remarkable interest shows how the



Sen. Robert Dole, a severely wounded WWII infantry officer, keynotes the VAVS conference.



private citizen can join with the government in providing help."

Dr. Lewis said the challenge facing VA volunteers in the coming years is the aging World War II and Korean War veteran. Its dimension can be seen from the prediction that by the year 2000, the majority of Americans will be over 65 and the majority of that age group will be veterans.

"Older veterans need more long-term nursing home care and need more help because many of them lack families," he said. "In the years ahead, we will have double and triple the support. One of the areas where we will need all the help we can get is in travel assistance because of restricted VA beneficiary funds."

"The VA will be in a leadership position for the whole nation in this respect," he continued. "Each year, the VA provides care for 3 million individuals, and each veteran has earned that care by serving the nation when it was needed. The future of the VA health care system is bright."

Marlene Wilson, a consultant to volunteer groups, said the changes in the United States between President Eisenhower and President Reagan "have been dazzling, bewildering, and the pace of change will quicken as the 21st century approaches."

"Who is out there to volunteer because of the changes in the nation's demographics?" she asked. "For the first time there are more over 65 than there are teenagers, and more and more marketing will be directed to a maturing society. In the present population, there are 2.8 million over 85 and 34,000 over 100. This trend is going to continue."

She said 45% of the population, or 56 million, are 25 to 39, and they should become involved in volunteer

work because they are part of the future.

"These baby boomers have to be involved in the decision-making," she said.

She had some advice for heads of volunteer organizations and their representatives: Be clear on what your mission is to attract volunteers, because the mission motivates; expect changes from heirarchies to networking, which means you can do together better than you can do alone; decide on a pattern or plan; when you need help, go to the best and let them do it.

Mrs. Wilson advised that training programs be established to enable people to succeed and to help the organization to grow, change and adapt.

"Remember that when we say 'why don't they do something about it' there is no 'they,'" she said. "We are the 'they' in a democracy."

"When you plan what you want to happen, it is important to have the power of love, generated by dedicated individuals willing to commit

"Older veterans need more longterm nursing home care and need more help because many of them lack families,"

Dr. Lewis declared.

their time and talents to others. In other words, it takes people like you."

Turning to the specific question of care for aging veterans, Dr. John Morley, director of the Geriatric Research, Education and Counseling Center (GRECC) at the Sepulveda, Calif., VA Medical Center, said: "Without you, there would be no

veterans' hospitals, for we cannot function without you. You are doing the work, and we will ask for more from you, and for new and innovative programs from you — and not only in the hospitals."

Morley said the VA does a very good job in its hospitals, but it does not outside those facilities.

He predicted that by the year 2030, two out of five Americans will be somewhat dependent on the skills of the remaining three out of five, and "we must solve the problem by much greater use of volunteers."

"In the geriatric centers, we are doing new things, helping in the communities, because you, the volunteers, have done it . . . The ten research centers have become centers of excellence," he continued.

As an example of the centers' high standing in the profession, Morley said that a prestigious foundation had given the Boston VA GRECC several million dollars rather than a similar private one in the area.

Because veterans need a little more time in a hospital before returning home, the geriatric evaluation unit, where they stay for up to three months, has decreased mortality to one in five chances of dying within a year from one in two. This has resulted in a decrease in time spent in a nursing home and an increase in speeding a return to the community.

"And it has been done at a decrease in costs," he said.

A teaching nursing home should be made "a vital and enjoyable place, a stop on the way back into the community, and we have had success in this beyond our wildest dreams," he said.

"A successful nursing home means increased patient satisfaction and finally the improved ability of the physician in training to care for frail patients and to go out into the



community and care for veterans and others.

"What do volunteers do? They feed patients and take their temperatures — what we want them to do, and we feel they are valuable members of the health care team."

To encourage young persons to become volunteers, Dr. Morley said the Sepulveda center has established a summer training program. "We don't charge, but we should because the kids have so much fun that it is like a summer camp."

The future of care, he said, begins at home with prevention, and volunteers should begin by telling the

veterans to stop smoking; they should show how to make the veterans' homes safer, and to improve their health by following simple rules of nutrition and exercise.

"Sex is a major factor in quality of life, but the trouble is that no one wants to talk about it," he said.

Dr. Morley said it is important for VA volunteers to wear their organizational caps because they let patients in intensive care units "know you are a friend."

Edward F. Rose, director of the VAVS, announced that 240 volunteers have contributed from 20,000 to 60,000 hours of assistance, and

several who were present were introduced at the conference.

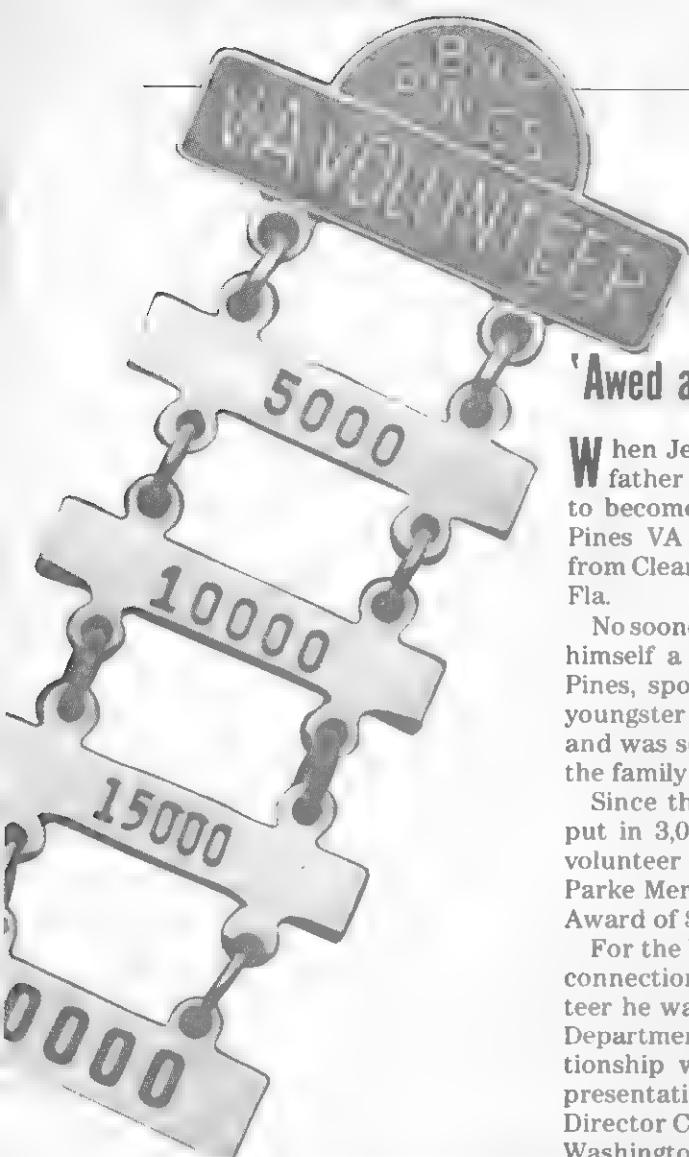
As chairman of a VAVS committee and national VFW representative on the VAVS advisory committee, Juarbe reported several recommendations, including one that calls for volunteers, as members of the VA health care team, being treated with courtesy and respect.

Mansell G. (Sam) Piper, chairman of the VAVS advisory committee who presided at all the sessions, told the volunteers:

"I cannot say enough for this group for taking the leadership. We could not run the system without you." ■



VFW receives award for VAVS work from VA's Dr. John A. Gronvall and Joan Lamb. Accepting: Robert F. O'Toole, VFW deputy national VAVS representative, and Frederico Juarbe, Jr., VFW national VAVS representative.



'Awed and Humbled'

When Jeff Carrington was 10, his father asked him if he would like to become a volunteer at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center, not far from Clearwater and St. Petersburg, Fla.

No sooner had Robert Carrington, himself a registered nurse at Bay Pines, spoken the words than the youngster rushed from the house and was seated in the front seat of the family car.

Since that day in 1980, Jeff has put in 3,000 hours as a VA youth volunteer and won the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award of \$3,000.

For the VFW, there was a special connection with Jeff, for as a volunteer he was sponsored by the VFW Department of Florida, and this relationship was underscored by the presentation of \$5,000 by Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, at the VA Voluntary Service 40th anniversary conference in Washington.



Cooper T. Holt, executive director of the VFW Washington Office, right, holds Jeff Carrington's award. Jeff is next to him. Others are Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Carrington and Raymond Lindberg, VFW VAVS representatives at Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

The \$5,000 Holt presented, along with other amounts from other organizations, was to build up the fund for awards to future recipients in keeping with the slogan, "Give a dollar for a Parke scholar."

The late James H. Parke, for whom award is named, was the VAVS founder who with the assistance of the VFW and other service organiza-



Jeff Carrington helps with records at Bay Pines

tions established the voluntary system to assist VA hospital staffs in caring for veterans, whose numbers soared with the end of World War II.

"To all of you who have given of your time and effort for many years, you are our heroes," said Holt at the Parke Award luncheon. "We are awed and humbled by this 40th anniversary.

"The 2.7 million members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary have shared your joys and heartaches in this commitment. The volunteer is a living symbol to the veterans that they are not and never will be forgotten.

"This scholarship award is funded by your efforts, and the VFW is pleased to present this \$5,000 check."

In accepting the award, Jeff said that over the years "I have seen the price the veterans paid to defend this country, and they have always been willing to pay the price for freedom. Working with them is one way youth volunteers can show each one that we really care."

He singled out for special thanks



Lee Brown, chief of the voluntary service at Bay Pines, Carolyn R. Dodson, assistant chief, and Raymond E. Lindberg, VFW Department of Florida VAVS representative.

They were among several who recommended Jeff for the award.

Of him, Brown wrote that "in today's society where we always read or hear about youths who are on drugs, runaways, or behind bars for one crime or another, it is heartening to know that there are youths who unselfishly give of themselves without thought of reward to serve those in need. Jeff is such a youth."

Dodson, after reviewing Jeff's volunteer career in the escort service, radiology service and the ear, nose and throat clinic, wrote that "he epitomizes the true characteristics of an outstanding youth volunteer, and I highly recommend him to receive the 1986 James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award."

Lindberg wrote that "because he performs his work assignments with confidence and in a professional manner, he has been given more and more responsibilities . . . Many times we are guilty of looking upon him not as a youth volunteer but as a regular paid employee."

Nor were they the only ones who endorsed Jeff for the award.

Donald Sweeney, a patient, wrote of Jeff: "I am sure that I am just one of the many veterans whose stay at this hospital was made easier because of a youth volunteer by the name of Jeff Carrington."

There were other testimonials to Jeff's selfless work from heads of the departments where he has been assigned and from Richard F. McEligott, Bay Pines director.

At the luncheon, Mrs. James Osborne, the Salvation Army commissioner who chairs the VAVS advisory committee executive committee, said, "I don't fear for the future

of this country with youths like Jeff."

Discussing the whole concept of volunteering to help others, Mark E. Austad, former U.S. ambassador to Norway, said, "Voluntarism is Americanism. It is a tonic to do something for someone without the thought of compensation."

Donald L. Ivers, VA general counsel representing ailing Administrator Thomas K. Turnage, called Jeff "an example to all of us as a young person and as a volunteer."

"Without the work you volunteers

do, we would not be able to provide the quality of care that we do."

For Jeff, 3,000 hours and seven years after he beat his father to the car that would take him to Bay Pines, the occasion was the high point of his life so far.

"It was really great being selected," he commented.

And the future? Now a high school junior in Seminole, Fla., Jeff plans to study to become an X-ray technician, a natural decision in view of his experience at Bay Pines. ■



Jeff Carrington adjusts a patient's wheelchair.



Commander Don Linscott, of Post 8685, Altoona, Pa., welcomes Vice President George Bush to the area when he visited there.

Pennsylvania's District 29, composed of 64 Posts, has initiated a VFW Day program each Tuesday at Oakland VA Hospital in Pittsburgh under which each Post provides a snack and refreshments for any veteran seeking outpatient treatment there. Hospital Chairman Charles Bates writes that this is of much assistance to the veterans, some of whom travel as many as 200 miles to the hospital, in this depressed area. They come from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Committee members are Mrs. Jean Weinman, Clarence Nesbitt, Arthur Weigel and William Lennon.

Several seminars relating to various aspects of safety have been presented by Post 1815, San Angelo, Texas. Most recent one was on home safety and security, with Master Patrolman John Pounds as instructor. Some 250 pieces of literature were distributed. Pounds also appeared at the Post's gun and hunting seminar. Other seminars have dealt with defensive driving, drug abuse, fingerprinting and child abuse and similar subjects.

A project of Post 1023, Pascoag, R.I., is to raise money for the construction of a monument at Gander, Newfoundland, honoring the men of the 101st Airborne Division killed there when their plane crashed in December, 1985, as they were coming home for Christmas after peace-keeping duty in the Sinai Desert. Sale of Newfoundland Aviation Coins is the principal means of raising the funds, writes Sr. Vice Commander Charles MacGarrigle, of Post 1023, 57 Manville Hill Road, Cumberland, R.I. 02864. Two Rhode Island men were among 248 killed.

Post 7048, Fairmont, W.Va., and its Ladies Auxiliary recently pre-

sented 360 U.S. Flags to be placed in Marion County, W.Va., schools. Earlier 16 Flags had been given to one school. Participants in the program were Commander Columbus Carpenter, Auxiliary Americanism Chairman Ina Richards, Auxiliary President Analore Barnes and several others. The county numbers 10,000 students in its schools.

Post 846, Overland Park, Kans., recently for the third year feted participants in the Kansas Special Olympics bowling tournament at a nearby bowling alley. They were guests at a dinner and dance at the Post home. Commander R.R. Whipple estimates the cost for the 350 youngsters at nearly \$600, but "they received their awards from the Special Olympics organization and really had a super time." Twenty-three Post and Auxiliary members donated 45 hours of time to make the event a success.

Post 5203, Paoli, Pa., and its Ladies Auxiliary have presented two U.S. Flags to St. Norbert's School, as well as a dozen small desk Flags and pamphlets on Flag etiquette. Commander Fred Pidgeon and Auxiliary President Harriet Bellgrau made the presentation to Sr. Dolores, school principal.

A posthumous Purple Heart recently was presented to Mrs. Elizabeth Kroeger, whose late husband, Alfred, was wounded in World War I at the Battle of Chateau-Thierry. He was one of 13 survivors in his company. The medal was presented to Mrs. Kroeger by Assistant Service Officer George Jones in a program at Post 4083, LaGrange, Mo. Alfred Kroeger died in March, 1985, at the age of 93.

One former member of the USS Ward gun crew ("DD-139, Pearl Harbor's First Shot," December), who sank the first Japanese submarine, was overlooked as a VFW member. He is H.P. Flanagan, a Past Commander of Post 4050, Kansas City, Mo. He is now a member of Post 5606.

continued on page 36

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Post 713, Westmont, N.J., presents an AC/DC television set to medical intensive care unit at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. Shown are Past Post Commander James Favala, Tita Ali, MICU head nurse; Robert T. Williams, hospital director; Commander John Szwak and Past Commander Ludwig Herly.



VFW members, as part of the Fair Lawn, N.J., Veterans Council, present four color television sets to the New Jersey Veterans Home in Paramus. VFW representatives are, second from left, George Corrado and Warren Harris, second from right, both of Post 281.

A major part of any VFW Post's life — or that of any other element of the organization — is helping to make life a little easier for hospitalized veterans. Some of this activity is captured in these pictures. Although not shown, the Franklin County, Ohio, Council honored William V. Karr, a member of Post 8794 in Columbus, for contributing \$18,698 worth of eyeglass frames and 38 contact lens starter kits valued at \$127 and a dozen wheelchairs for the use of county veterans. All new, the wheelchairs, worth more than \$5,100, are kept at Post 495. Rep. John R. Kasich described the action as "one of the most outstanding and selfless gestures of which I have ever heard." Whether performed by individual members or a Post, the good deeds recorded year after year prove "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living" is not merely a slogan.



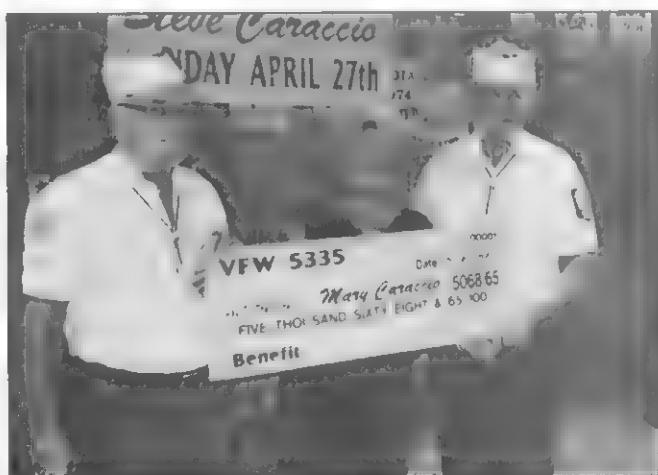
Chippewa County, Minn., has a new van to transport veterans to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, thanks in part to VFW members in the county, as indicated by the VFW emblem on the vehicle.



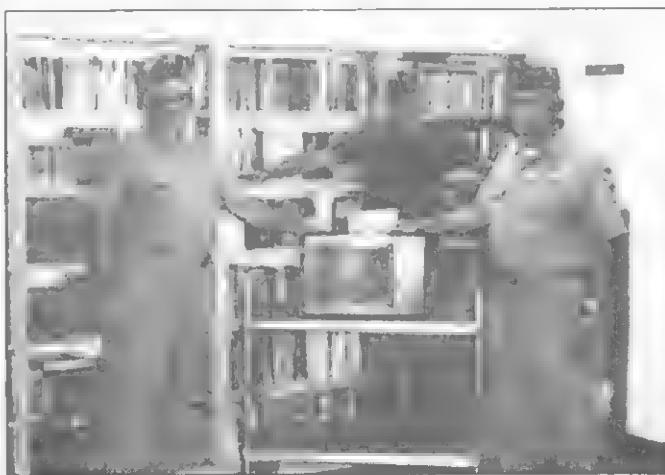
Post and Auxiliary 5405, Winter Springs, Fla., install hand controls in the van of Larry Sexton, seated at the wheel. Others shown are Auxiliary Community Activities Chairman Evelyn Hart, Commander Hasley H. Hart, Sr.; Auxiliary President Ida Villar and Bobbie Glenday, rehabilitation chairman. Sexton is a Korean War veteran and double amputee.



Members of Post 7878 and Auxiliary in Valley Forge, Pa., present a television set to the nursing home unit at the Coatesville VA Medical Center

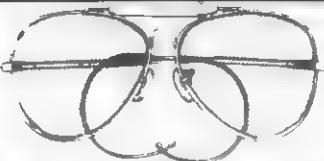
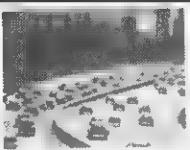


A check for \$5,068 is presented to Mrs. Mary Caraccio, whose Life Member husband Stephen died last April, to help with his funeral expenses. Making the presentation are George Crowley, chairman of the fundraising drive, and Commander Norman H. Phillips, of Post 5335, Boynton Beach, Fla.



Post 2640, Wallington, N.J., presents six television sets to the recently-opened Paramus, N.J., nursing home. Shown with them are Commander Stanley Rurak, Service Officer Joe Hlavenka and Sr. Vice Commander Ben Pisani.

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IN THE FIELD

continued from page 33

Undersheriff Bill Timberlake, of Allegany County, N.Y., as well as several Vietnam veterans who are members of **Post 2721**, Friendship, N.Y., are advising veterans' organizations to avoid a man posing as a Vietnam veteran, amputee and former prisoner of war.



The cautionary note was sounded as the result of a picture accompanying "New Post Promotes POW/MIA Cause" (December). The man was shown being helped during the POW/MIA Race for Freedom marathon in Baltimore as Marine Reservists counted cadence to encourage him.

Timberlake said James E. Gowan, who calls himself James A. Cowan, the name of a soldier killed in Vietnam, is in his mid to late 30s, weighs about 160 pounds, has dark brown hair, wears a mustache and is 5 feet 11 inches tall. He comes from Maryland and is not an amputee.

Veterans in the Belmont, N.Y., area became suspicious of him on Nov. 1 during the dedication of a Vietnam memorial when a veteran disputed Gowan's claims of Vietnam War service.

After questioning Gowan, Timberlake sent him to a nearby state mental hospital for observation, but he was released ten days later as not being a threat to himself or anyone else. Timberlake said he found in Gowan's possession several newspaper and magazine clippings of stories about himself.

Although Timberlake's investigation uncovered no record of Gowan's military service, he said Gowan uses the clippings to establish a spurious veteran status and gain recognition from veterans' groups.

Post Service Officer Lauded

The success attained by the VFW in a benefit claim before the Veterans Administration is in many instances the result of the combined efforts of VFW representatives at all levels.

At times, though, the role played by the VFW Post Service Officer is underestimated and even may go unrecognized altogether.

This letter from Donald J. Mason, of Spokane, Wash., aptly demonstrates the value of the Post Service Officer in the claims process:

"In our lifetime some of us are able to assist our fellow human beings. After the assistance afforded me by the former Service Officer of VFW Post 1435, I would like to make mention and give credit to Howard C. Young.

"Since 1964, I have had a disability compensation rating for diabetes starting at 40% and going to 60%. In 1981, it was increased to 100% because of a heart condition classified as service connected. In May, 1983, it was decreased to a combined rating of 80%. I protested, but realizing I was in need of professional assistance and advice, I contacted the VFW and Service Officer Young. He

came highly recommended to me by other concerned and knowledgeable persons. He immediately reacted with the professionalism we like to find in people, but often do not.

"My dissatisfaction with the rating of the Seattle Regional Office continued. Meanwhile, my health condition continued to worsen. Subsequently, my case was forwarded to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C., through the advice of Service Officer Young. I had serious doubts as to the outcome.

"In June, 1985, the Board decided to restore my 100% rating, retroactive to May, 1983, resulting in a back payment of \$15,513.

"The tenacity and knowledge displayed by Mr. Young on my behalf should be known to his fellow workers. I am aware of the teamwork needed and provided at the State and National levels to be successful, so I likewise wish to give others concerned the credit they deserve.

"I joined the VFW after recognizing the ability of Mr. Young even though I already belonged to the American Legion (Minnesota) and the DAV (Washington)."

MEMBER BENEFITS

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The 1985 inflation rate was 3.8%, but keep your guard up because here comes the bad news: Federal government statistics show that healthcare spending in 1985 was up 7.9% over 1984, double the 1978 amount. Leading the race is the cost of a hospital stay, up 8.3% in 1985 alone.

That is why thousands of VFW members are turning to the VFW-Sponsored Hospital Benefit Insurance Plan to give them the extra cash they need to supplement their basic hospitalization coverage. In fact, the VFW-Sponsored Hospital Benefit Plan is one of the most popular member benefits.

And now, to keep pace with rising

costs, there is a new, improved version of the plan: new maximum benefits of \$150-a-day for members under age 65 — plus five other daily cash options; new maximum benefits of \$60-a-day for members 65 and over — plus two other daily cash benefit options, and the new convenience of credit card payment at enrollment.

To receive enrollment information on this plan or any other VFW-Sponsored Insurance Plan, call the toll-free Insurance Hotline: 1-800-821-2606. In Missouri, call toll-free: 1-800-237-1765. In Kansas City call: 561-2338. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, any business day.

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Phone _____

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M E M B E R S H I P

November Commanders-of-the-Month

DEPARTMENT



DIV. I
Illinois
Edward Trennert (3)



DIV. III
Wisconsin
James Kurz (3)



DIV. IV
Maryland
Newman T. Braaten (3)



DIV. VI
Mississippi
A.O. Cummings



DIV. IX
Vermont
Merritt Edwards (2)



DIV. VII
Colorado
Darrell D. Elliot (3)



DIV. X
Delaware
Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. (2)



DIV. II
Minnesota
Larry Ziebarth (2)



DIV. V
Nebraska
C.C. Blankinship (3)



DIV. VIII
South Dakota
William H. Tarrell (2)



DIV. XI
Panama Canal
Edward E. Bradley (2)

POST

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Lawrence Montgomery (2)

DIV. III
Post 3962
Mississippi
John Graham (3)

DIV. V
Post 4667
Virginia
Roy L. Hayes (3)

DIV. VII
Post 8510
Minnesota
John L. Shalloe

DIV. IX
Post 5040
Illinois
John R. Hanson

DIV. XI
Post 5951
Louisiana
Sylvain L. Duet

DIV. XIII
Post 1983
Mississippi
Claude Hudgins, Jr. (2)

DIV. XV
Post 2000
New York
Lucio Munar (3)

DIV. XVII
Post 10427
Texas
Joseph C. Schumaker (3)

DIV. XIX
Post 8800
Texas
C.E. Gathright, Sr. (3)

DIV. XX
Post 1319
Oklahoma
James Schutte (3)

DIV. II
Post 2539
Mississippi
James Underhill (2)

DIV. IV
Post 2562
Maryland
Tomas F. Bunting (2)

DIV. VI
Post 3784
Louisiana
James E. Westbrook

DIV. VIII
Post 1642
Minnesota
Richard Buck (3)

DIV. X
Post 4490
Mississippi
Bobby Miller (2)

DIV. XII
Post 10370
Alabama
Bobby C. King (3)

DIV. XIV
Post 8566
Texas
Donald Cook

DIV. XVI
Post 7108
Texas
John Adams

DIV. XVIII
Post 4976
Mississippi
Billy Palmer (3)

DIV. XX
Post 1319
Oklahoma
James Schutte (3)

DISTRICT

DIV. I
District 8
Indiana
Paul Roseberry (3)

DIV. II
District 3
Indiana
James A. Pauwels (2)

DIV. III
District 6
Kansas
Robert Hulse (2)

DIV. IV
District 13
Michigan
Gordon Bachman

DIV. V
District 13
Mississippi
Roy Colston (3)

DIV. VI
District 6
South Dakota
Charles L. Hadrick (2)

DIV. VII
District 2
Maryland
Francis Gill (3)

DIV. VIII
District 17
Maryland
Joseph W. Nassar

DIV. IX
District 10
West Virginia
Ralph M. Baber (3)

DIV. X
District 13
Colorado
Bobby L. Knudsen

(Figure in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor)

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of December 9, 1986

Post	Place No.	Location	1986-87	Membership	Post	Place No.	Location	1986-87	Membership
1	1114	Evansville, IN	3813	8541	San Antonio, TX	1315	70	691	Asheville, NC
2	3579	Park Ridge, IL	2257	37	Topeka, KS	1314	72	6240	Russell, KS
3	628	Sioux Falls, SD	2229	38	St. Louis Park, MN	1306	73	6896	Detroit, MI
4	5555	Richfield, MN	2150	39	Tucson, AZ	1303	74	9400	Sunnyslope, AZ
5	2539	Gulfport, MS	2148	40	Albert Lea, MN	1276	75	3790	Logansport, IN
6	360	Mishawaka, IN	2078	41	Clarksburg, WV	1272	76	832	S. Portland, ME
7	1308	Alton, IL	1906	42	Davison, MI	1271	77	972	Terre Haute, IN
8	47	Uniontown, PA	1852	43	Oakville, CT	1270	78	2562	Silver Spring, MD
9	1146	St. Clair Shores, MI	1812	44	Cheektowaga, NY	1266	79	2702	Huntsville, AL
10	1064	Huntington, WV	1728	45	Wichita, KS	1261	80	7119	Indianapolis, IN
11	131	Lincoln, NE	1711	46	Fort Sill, OK	1258	81	23	Lebanon, PA
12	6506	Rosedale, MD	1705	47	W. Seneca, NY	1257	82	1857	Oklahoma City, OK
13	1296	Bloomington, MN	1700	48	New Port Richey, FL	1253	83	2012	Abilene, TX
14	1273	Rapid City, SD	1639	49	Janesville, WI	1250	84	9083	Baltimore, MD
15	49	Mobile, AL	1617	50	Lemon Grove, CA	1220	85	733	Mason City, IA
16	2290	Manville, NJ	1578	51	Sandusky, OH	1218	86	4848	Chattanooga, TN
17	401	Albuquerque NM	1525	52	Brentwood, PA	1215	87	428	Saint Cloud, MN
17	3962	Corinth, MS	1525	53	Jefferson City, MO	1206	88	137	Duluth, MN
19	4057	Tupelo, MS	1520	54	Joliet, IL	1199	89	4051	Colorado Springs, CO
20	249	Butler, PA	1509	55	Columbia, SC	1189	90	2346	Saugus, MA
21	1275	Lima, OH	1464	56	Alexandria, LA	1186	91	3376	Ephrata, PA
22	6704	Mechanicsburg, PA	1452	57	Salina, KS	1184	92	1115	Hillsville, VA
23	367	Joliet, IL	1419	58	Spring Hill, FL	1173	93	1990	Greeneville, TN
24	379	Yakima, WA	1410	59	Kenosha, WI	1172	94	6827	St. Petersburg, FL
25	1989	Indiana, PA	1402	60	Independence, MO	1171	95	762	Fargo, ND
26	3382	Kingsport, TN	1390	61	S. St. Paul, MN	1159	96	2754	West View, PA
27	989	Tacoma, WA	1387	61	Carmi, IL	1159	97	9223	Arlington, CA
28	2503	Omaha, NE	1386	63	Kingston, PA	1157	98	53	Jamestown, NY
29	6975	Bristol, VA	1384	64	Daytona Beach, FL	1151	99	3838	Cape Girardeau, MO
29	1079	Elyria, OH	1384	65	Tucson, AZ	1147	100	1	Denver, CO
29	1599	Chambersburg, PA	1384	66	South Omaha, NE	1136	101	7175	Milington, TN
32	2100	Everett, WA	1381	67	W. Memphis, AR	1134	102	1120	Indianapolis, IN
33	9619	Morningside, MD	1378	68	Denver, CO	1128	103	4809	Norfolk, VA
34	6640	Metairie, LA	1353	69	Festus, MO	1127	104	2743	Norwalk, OH
35	4372	Odessa, TX	1329	70	Dallas, TX	1126	105	2111	Chula Vista, CA

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through November 30, 1986.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 77.88%

1	MARYLAND	83.79	18	Connecticut	79.07	37	Oklahoma	74.48
2	Minnesota	83.60	20	Missouri	78.95	38	Massachusetts	74.45
3	Wisconsin	83.46	21	Wyoming	78.88	39	New Mexico	74.40
4	Kansas	83.37	22	Louisiana	78.83	40	Pennsylvania	74.29
5	Indiana	82.90	23	Colorado	78.55	41	Arkansas	74.05
6	South Dakota	81.62	24	Panama Canal	78.52	42	Idaho	73.64
7	Michigan	81.24	25	Rhode Island	78.23	43	Georgia	73.63
8	Nebraska	80.99	26	Arizona	77.70	44	Texas	73.40
8	California	80.93	27	New Hampshire	77.48	45	North Carolina	73.10
10	Mississippi	80.84	28	Florida	77.33	46	Alabama	72.53
11	Maine	80.63	29	Iowa	76.78	47	Kentucky	72.40
12	Illinois	80.36	30	New York	76.77	48	Tennessee	71.46
13	North Dakota	80.18	31	District of Columbia	76.70	49	South Carolina	70.35
14	Virginia	80.01	32	Oregon	76.24	50	Hawaii	69.62
15	Ohio	79.87	33	Washington	75.88	51	Pacific Area	69.18
16	West Virginia	79.86	34	Delaware	75.38	52	Utah	65.67
17	Vermont	79.70	35	Montana	74.89	53	Alaska	61.97
18	New Jersey	79.18	36	Nevada	74.52	54	Europe	39.94

National Aides-de-Camp

The following members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

Dominic Romano, Post 7330, Oakville, Conn.; Jack E. Morris, Post 266, Anderson, Ind., and Anastasios Cokenias, Post 2562, Wheaton, Md.

Marty



Register Now for New Orleans



Now is the time to register early for the 88th National Convention in New Orleans from Aug. 14 to 21.

By doing so, you can save \$2 off the regular \$8 registration fee.

This will be the fifth National Convention to be held in the Crescent City since the end of World War II in 1945. New Orleans was the Convention city in 1967, 1973, 1979 and 1983.

Famed for its architecture of quaint buildings with wrought iron balconies, narrow streets and world-famous cuisine served in some of the world's most famous restaurants, the exciting French Quarter is New Orleans to most VFW National Convention delegates who travel there from all parts of the country.

Historic New Orleans will prove just as fascinating to delegates this year, as it has unfailingly in the past.

Major speakers, the annual Military Parade, the annual Memorial Service, the annual Distinguished Guests Banquet at which the prestigious Dwight David Eisenhower Award will be presented, discussions of proposed resolutions that will guide the organization through 1987-88 and all the other activities that make a National Convention the highlight of the year for the VFW will

make New Orleans a memorable experience.

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock, of Fort Plain, N.Y., is expected to be elected Commander-in-Chief, the office now held by Norman G. Staab, of Russell, Kans. Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, of Alexandria, La., is expected to be elected to the post now held by Stock.

So as is customary under the rotational system the VFW employs, this year it will be the Big Ten Con-

ference's turn to put forth a nominee for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and, with several announced candidates, it is anticipated this aspect will attract much interest from the delegates.

Be sure now to get your \$6 check or money order in the mail along with the attached coupon to assure your savings of \$2. ■

Register in Advance for 1987 National Convention (Make checks or money orders payable to VFW 88th National Convention.)

**VFW 88th National Convention
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, Mo. 64111**

Enclosed is my check money order in the amount of \$6.00. Register name and number of our VFW Post for representation at the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, August 14-21, 1987. (Do not enclose your delegate or alternate credentials with this form.)

Please type or print your name and address:

Name VFW Post State

Address

City State Zip

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States**1986-87 Series General Orders No. 4**

1. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMITTEE Member Renie J. Champagne, Post 8750, San Francisco, Calif; NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE Member: Claude Shipley, Post 9211, Reno, Nev.; NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE Members Harry M. Faris, Post 6732, Clover, S.C., and William D. Taylor, Post 7768, Beebe, Ark.; NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE Member: Jim Jones, Post 2986, Polson, Mont.; NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF James Martin, Post 7263, Capitol, Calif.; James Fiedler, Post 10578, Castle Rock, Colo.; John Mutschler, Post 5447, Holly Oak, Del.; Clarence W. Littrell, Post 2681, Marietta, Ga.; Thomas A. Ortogero, Sr., Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii; Dennis Craycraft, Post 4406, Belding, Mich.; Hillard E. Schutte, Post 2525, Kalispell, Mont.; William E. Kelly, Post 1753, Las Vegas, Nev.; George B. Force, Jr., Post 7247, Barrington, N.J.; Joseph Siwakowski, Post 7410, Belmar, N.J.; Mahlon B. Pierce, Post 7679, Mantua, N.J.; Gary Barringer, Post 9134, Rockwell, N.C.; Leon E. Olson, Post 760, Jamestown, N.D.; John Wacek, Post 661, Salem, Ore.; Charles A. Clay Post 1509, Agana, Guam; Domingo Rivera-Martinez, Post 40, Balboa, Canal Zone; Donald E. Lehman, Sr., Post 8298, Northumberland, Pa.; Gai A. Wilson, Post 5166, Sweetwater, Tenn.; W.R. Wiseman, Post 4677, Pulaski, Tenn.; Lloyd A. Retter, Post 4916, Frayser, Tenn.; Fred Ladue, Post 782, Montpelier, Vt.; Gerald P. Misrandino, Post 1830, Washington, D.C., and Paxton, E. Webb, Post 2321, Green River, Wyo.; ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: Eurie M. Savage, Post 6483, Milford, Del.; Donald F. Ziegler, Post 6448, Fairburn, Ga.; Herman J. Daldin, Post 9749, Hilo, Hawaii; C. Raymond Poole, Post 446, Muskegon, Mich.; Richard J. Ehl, Post 4813, Circle, Mont.; Neal Ledford, Post 5202, Waynesville, N.C.; Lynn W. Moerke, Post 8367, Grafton, N.D.; Art Goodwin, Post 9745, Winston, Ore.; Raymond E. Steele, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan; Clem Specht, Jr., Post 100, Cristobal, Canal Zone; Lawrence Chappell, Post 9764, Church Hill, Tenn.; Jose Aguilar, Post 6471, Washington, D.C., and Ralph Norstedt, Post 9439, Casper, Wyo.

2. Announcement is made of the retirement on Dec. 31, 1986, of William E. Rafner, Director, General Services, Post 7900, Kansas City, Mo., after 27 years of dedicated service as a member of the National Headquarters Staff.

3. Announcement is made of the following National Headquarters Staff changes/appointments effective January 1, 1987: Director, Administrative Services: John J. Senk, Jr., Post 335, Cranford, N.J.; Director, Post Services and Buddy Poppy: Thomas L. Kiasell, Post 9648, Columbus Grove, Ohio; Director, National Convention: Omar F. Kendall, Post 673, Jasper, Ind.; Director, General Services: David L. Swindler, Post 4050, North Kansas City, Mo.; Assistant Director, General Services: Larry Gniotczynski, Post 1465, Wauwatosa, Wis.; and Administrative Assistant to the Adjutant General: Jefferson D. Lawson, Post 846, Overland Park, Kans.

4. Attention of all units is directed to the following correction to Resolution No. 503 approved by the National Council of Administration at its meeting held on October 4, 1986 in Kansas City, Mo., and which was concurred in by the POW/MIA Committee at its meeting held on October 25, 1986 in Washington, D.C.

Delete the references to a live POW Committee of the National League of Families in Resolution No. 503 titled CONTINUE THE POW/MIA SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE which was adopted as amended by the 87th National Convention, it having been determined that there is no such committee within the National League of Families.

continued on page 44

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Announcing a PRIVATE SALE for readers of VFW

The 5-piece Morgan Silver Dollar Collector's Set that had sold for \$250 is now available for the special low price of just **\$98.00** per set

For The Next 2 Weeks Only!

Because we value your business and want you as a customer, we are making an unprecedented SPECIAL OFFER on our beautiful five piece Morgan Silver Dollar Collector's Set for just \$98.00 per set. Here are 8 good reasons why you must take advantage of this opportunity now:

1. **PRICE BREAK!** Only a few years ago we were selling our five Morgan Silver Dollar Sets for \$250.00 per set—so you save more than twice as much!

2. **MOST SOUGHT AFTER COINS**—Considered by experts to be the peak of the engraver's art, Morgan solid silver dollars of 412.5 grains of ninety percent fine silver, .7344 oz. pure silver, are the most sought after coins ever minted in the United States.

3. **NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION**—Dated from 1878 to 1921, these coins have become so popular that collectors and investors have been hoarding them for years. As a result, along with the fact that millions of these coins have been melted down for their silver content, there are no longer any Morgan Silver Dollars in circulation.

4. **A MONEY SAVING OFFER!** Now due to a special purchase of these historic coins, we are able to make them available to you in this money saving offer. However, due to market fluctuations, we can guarantee this offer for the next 2 weeks only!*

5. **INCREASED VALUE OVER LAST 10 YEARS**—Silver Dollar coins in general have increased in value over ten times in the last ten years. Some Morgan Silver Dollars sell for as much as \$20,000 and one in prime mint condition recently sold for \$42,500.



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35 West 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

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GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 43

5. Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expires Dec. 31, 1986, unless their 1987 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Commanders and Quartermasters are enjoined to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members prior to Jan 1, 1987

6. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure. Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends Dec 31. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

7. All members are urged to send in donations for National Home Christmas Seals. Your contributions should be sent to the VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, Mich 48827

8. Post Commanders and Americanism Chairmen are reminded of the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, Feb. 15, 1898. A special meeting or a commemorative program should be held to honor these Comrades who served in our Nation's cause in the Spanish-American War and especially those veterans of the Spanish-American War who formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars 88 years ago.

9. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. Department Inspectors and Deputies shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

10. For the purpose of establishing continuous membership a member may pay back Department and National dues for all delinquent years, provided he was a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years prior to the time he last became delinquent.

11. The location of the following Posts have been changed: Post 184 from Secaucus to Kearny, N.J., Post 4268 from Urbandale to Naturita, Colo., and Post 5431 from Encinitas to Solana Beach, Calif.

12. Certificates of charters evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 4180 and 6180 consolidated as Post 6180, Port Richey, Fla., and Posts 6118 and 6463 consolidated as Post 6463, Crosby, Miss.

13. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 1525, Clayton, Calif., Post 1572, Aleia, Hawaii, Post

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5273, Bradley, West Va., Post 6459, South Pittsburg, Tenn.; Post 6460, Spring Hill, Tenn.; Post 6549, Leavittsburg, Ohio; Post 6551, Byrdstown, Tenn., Post 6575, Auburn, N.Y., Post 6597, Rochester, N.Y., Post 6609, Deposit, N.Y., Post 6617, Salem-Cambridge, N.Y.; Post 6625, Kirkwood, N.Y.; Post 6626, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Post 6635, Coudersport, Pa., Post 6641, Churchville, N.Y., Post 6647, Laporte, Pa., Post 6702, New Orleans, La., Post 6706, Belle Chasse, La., Post 6716, White Castle, La.; Post 6720, Crowley, La., Post 6727, Evans, Ga., Post 6741, Lincolnton, Ga., Post 6743, Osage City, Kans., Post 6835, Columbia, Mo., Post 6838, Linn Creek, Mo.; Post 7204, Germantown, Tenn.; Post 7366, Darrington, Wash., and Post 8393, Marquette, Mich.

By Command of
NORMAN G. STAAB
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

CLAIMS

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Submit claims assistance requests to VFW Magazine, Claims, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

ARMY

America Div., 3rd Inf., 4th Bn., 11th Bde., Co. A., (Vietnam)—Seeking the medics or anyone who remembers my injuries on LZ Thunder & San Juan Hill—Joseph Vann, Rt. 3 Box 35, Defuniak Springs FL 32433.

6th Armored Div.—Seeking Charles Minder—Thomas Minder, 200 Eswa Ave., St. Clairsville OH 43950.

1st Cav., 7th Cav. Regt., Co. L., (1951-52)—Seeking anyone who remembers my bayonet wound, trench mouth & white phosphorus burn, especially Sgt. Kennedy, Cpl. Joel Woods & Robert Demitt—Billy Hatfield, 6331 NE Ponderosa Blvd., Hansville WA 98340.

9th Div., 38th Inf., Co. B., (1944-45)—Seeking anyone who served in France and Germany with Delbert Prophet to substantiate claim—Yvonne Prophet, Gen. Del., Buffalo OK 73843.

Parrot Forest (Lunville, France)—Seeking anyone who remembers when Lawrence Hermanns was wounded on Sept. 27, 1944 at approximately 1315 hrs. when the truck he was riding in was struck by an 88 mm shell from a King Tiger Tank—Denny Hermanns, 4447 Wood Duck Ave., Juneau AK 99801.

continued on page 46



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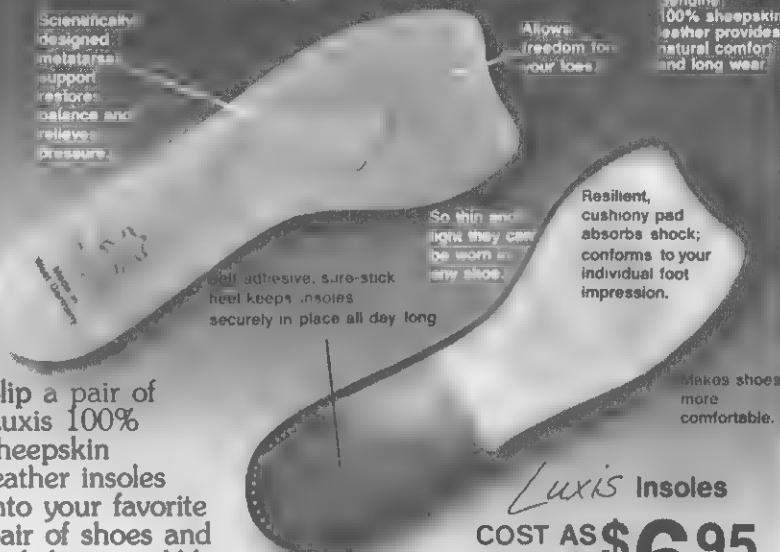
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CLAIMS

continued from page 45

47th Inf. Rgt., 2nd Bn., Hq Co—Seeking anyone who was informant on death certificate of Robert Chellis who drowned June 6, 1955 in Danube River near Ulm, Germany—Joan Norrdin, PO Box 36, McCall ID 83638

131st Combat Engrs., (Pacific, 1942-45)—Seeking anyone who remembers me to substantiate claim—Jim Hunter, PO Box 4, Pinson AL 35126.

11th Armored Div., 188th Rgt., Co. L—Seeking anyone who remembers the forest fire in 1953 when I lost my glasses & anyone from the 188th Co. E. who remembers when I had pneumonia—Joe Longworth, 3101 Hyannis Dr., Cincinnati OH 45239.

40th Div., 222nd FA Bn., (WWII)—Seeking former members—John Gorman, 16 Carleton Court, Glens Falls NY 12801

82nd Armored Div., 504th Inf., 3rd Bn., Hq Co., (1945)—Seeking anyone in unit who remembers when I injured my back—Joe Ramshur, Rt. 3, Box 182, Columbia MS 39429

MARINES

4th Mar. Div., (Marshall Islands, 1944)—Seeking anyone who remembers me getting hurt—Hays McDowell, 8569 Wheeler Rd., Concord MI 49237

MATT

6th Fleet Supply Depot (1944-45), Milne Bay—Seeking anyone who remembers when I went to Base hospital and was treated for jungle rot—Wayne Barkell, 4746 E. Skyline 81, Laramie WY 82070.

USS Bogue (CVE-9), (1944-45)—Seeking anyone who can verify my back & leg injury while cleaning & greasing gears inside gun mount—James Peters, PO Box 133, Hull MA 02405.

LST 884—Seeking any crew member who remembers when we were struck by Japanese suicide plane on Easter Sunday, April, 1945 at Okinawa—William Dollman, 4612 S. Lois Ave., Tampa FL 33611.

REUNIONS

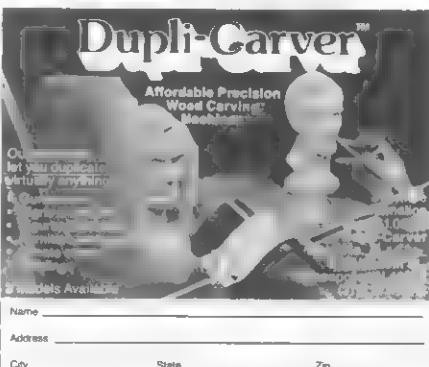
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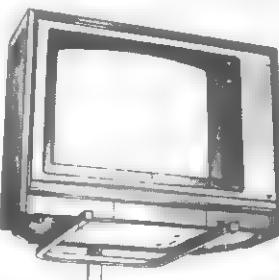
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REUNIONS

continued from page 47

91st Inf. Div.—June, Eau Claire WI—Willis Diercks, 376 Cannon View Dr., Red Wing MN 55066

97th Div., 303rd Inf., Co. B.—April, Litchfield MN—Clem Schlosser, Meadowood Apt. 2, Darwin MN 55324

100th Inf. Div. Assn., (Florida Chapter)—April, DeLand FL—Hugh Creveling, 92 Ventura Dr., Dunedin FL 33528

106th Inf. Div. Assn.—Sept., Mobile AL—John Gilliland, 605 Northside Dr., Enterprise AL 36330. Field NJ 07621

139th Ord. Bn., AM. 3037th Co.—May, Washington DC—Bill Davis, 1012 Grove St., Wilson NC 27893

234th MP Co., (Supreme Hdq.)—June, Portsmouth NH—Warren Nickerson, 277 Aldrich Rd., Portsmouth NH 03801

239th Combat Engrs. Bn., (WWII)—Sept., Alexander Bay NY—Jacob Navarro, 902 Franklin St., Watertown NY 13601

COAST GUARD

USS Garrett CTY (LST-788)—Aug., Oakland MD—James Guy, 2040 Pine Branch Dr., Melbourne FL 32940

USCGC Thetis (WPC-115) (WWII)—Apr., Key West FL—Clive Bridges, 5750 Florida Blvd., Apt. 4, Baton Rouge LA 70806

MARINES

2nd Mar. Div., 1st Bn., Co. C—March, Las Vegas NV—Jack Mack, 2800 S 2520 E, Salt Lake City UT 84109

3rd Div., 23rd HQ Co.—Medford OR—Vic David, 42 N. Front St., Medford OR 97501

5th Div., Assn.—July, Tampa FL—Stuart Watson, 317 Bay Blvd., Port Richey FL 33568

7th Mar. Div., 3rd Bn.—Aug., Richmond VA—George Martin, PO Box 245, Riva MD 21140

4th Mar. Defense Bn.—Sept., St. Louis MO—Andy Dourmous, 4566 Gibson Ave., St. Louis MO 63110

10th Div., 2nd MM, 3rd Bn.—March, San Francisco CA 94127

11th Amph. Trac. Bn.—May, Vincennes IN—George Phillips, 1306 Maple St., Lawrenceville IL 62439

24th Div., Co's. H & S., (WWII)—Sept., Dallas—John Corso, 301 Essex St., no 206, Lynn MA 01902

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NAVY

USS Alabama (BB-60), (SSBN-731)—April, Mobile AL—John Brown, PO Box 501, Keller TX 76248.

USS Burns (DD-568)—April, Charleston SC—Frank Thames, 2753 Wyckersham Pl., Fullerton CA 92633

USS Chicago (CA-29), (CA-136) & (CG-11)—May, Orlando FL—A.R. King, 1012 Neely St., Oviedo FL 32765.

USS Cleveland (CL-55)—June, Indianapolis IN—E.R. Poland, 843 W, 5th St., Greenfield IN 46140

USS Colonial (LSD-18)—March, Boston—Louis Fraga, 2260 County St., Dighton MA 02715

USS Des Moines (CA-134)—Aug., Mercer PA—Paul Overly, RD 2, Box 2670, Mercer PA 16137

USS Eldorado (AGC-11)—Sept., Pittsburgh PA—Robert Persichitti, 903 S. Lincoln Rd., East Rochester NY 14445.

USS Enterprise (CV-6) & USS Intrepid (CV-11)—April, Wichita KS—Walter Szarejko, PO Box 126, Middleville NY 13406

USS Fanshaw Bay (CVE-70) & Air Squadrons—June, Colorado Springs CO—Floyd Taylor, 436 Rose Dr., Security CO 80911

USS Frank Knox (DD-742) (WWII)—May, Delran NJ—John Bellis, 41 Haines Mill Rd., Delran NJ 08075

USS Garrett County (LST-786)—Aug.—Association, 2940 Pine Branch Dr., Melbourne FL 32940

USS Hansford (APA-108)—June, Nashville TN—Billy Barnett, 1746 Trenton Ave., Bremerton WA 98310.

USS Hydrus (AKA-28)—June Lowell MA—Robert Christensen, 98 Greenfield St., Lawrence MA 01843

USS James C. Owens (DD-776), (WWII), Korea, Vietnam & ETO—Aug., San Diego CA—Lee Warren, 500 Southgate Ave., Daly City CA 94016.

USS Joyce (DE-317)—Sept., Bossier City LA—Joseph Helminger, 1513 Huron Ave., Metairie LA 70005.

USS LaGrange (APA-124)—May, Houston TX—Walter Boeing RR 1, Box 176, Orange Grove TX 78372.

USS Lavallette (DD-448)—Sept., New York City NY—Leonard Ennico, 766 Tuckahoe Rd., Yonkers NY 10710.

USS LCI (G) 726—Sept., Baltimore MD—Donald Reader, 2717 Cambridge Dr., Fort Wayne IN 46808

USS LCS (L) 34—Sept., Lexington KY—Frank Farmer, 419 Estes Dr., Winchester KY 40391.

USS Lexington (CV-2)—May, Tacoma WA—Charle Fowler, PO Box 1131, Lake Havasu City AZ 86403.

USS Little (DD-803) & (DD-79)—April, Seattle WA—Walter Reid, 3802 41st Ave. N.E., Seattle WA 98105.

USS Lyon (AP-71) (WWII)—June—Thomas Pecora, 25 Adams Rd., Winchester MA 01890

USS (LSD-247)—June, Vincennes IN—Pervis Carpenter, 608 Bonvue St., Lake Charles LA 70605.

USS (LST-687)—June, Greensboro NC—Fred Ingram, 1014 Piney Grove Rd., Kernersville NC 27284.

USS (H), (LST-951)—June, New Orleans LA—Don Heuer, RT 7, Box 454, Batesville AR 72501.

USS (LST-1081) (WWII)—July, Charleston SC—Furman Fowler, 1 Murray Circle 52, Cheraw SC 29520.

USS Mansfield (DD-728)—Aug., Boston MA—Herbert Miller, 7 Perry St., Somerville MA 02143

USS McCaffery (DD-860)—June, Norfolk VA—Gordon Leiser, 417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood NJ 08884.

USS Melville (AD-2)—July, Annapolis MD—James West, 4 Melbourne Ln., Greenville SC 29615

USS Motive (AM-102)—April, Schulenburg TX—Ed Clifford, Rt. 3, Box 226 AA, Schulenburg TX 78956

USS Murray (DD-578)—March, Oak Lawn IL—John Opitz 9345 Menard, Oak Lawn IL 60453

USS Newport News (CA-148)—June, Norfolk VA—Franklin Ragland, 8337 Kanter Ave., Norfolk VA 23518

USS Ormsby (APA-49)—May, Nashville TN—Herbert Matta, 514 Meadowview Rd., Forest Grove OR 97116

USS (PC-1137)—June, Louisville KY—Dick Hof, 907 Exmoor Ave., Louisville KY 40223

USS Peterson (DE-152)—July, Reno NV—Russell Jensen, 1324 Stanley Rd., Plainfield IN 46168.

USS Portland (CA-33)—May, Denver CO—Reunion Assn., PO Box 515191, Dallas TX 75255-5191

River Patrol Force TF116 (River Rats)—June, Franklin Park IL—Bill Park, 2615 Silvercreek Dr., Franklin Park IL 60131

USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) & (CVL-CVE) & USS Bataan (CVL-29)—April, Pasadena TX—James Lohr, 738 Campbell Dr., Belpre OH 45714.

Tin Can Sailors of Mid-West States—March, Oak Lawn IL—John Opitz, 9345 Menard, Oak Lawn IL 60453

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SEEKING

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8th AF, 483rd Bomb Gp., 862nd Sqdn.—Seeking Frank E McCann for reunion?—Duane Wineinger, Tribune KS 67879, Seymour Deutsch, 300 Edwards St., Roslyn Hts. NY 11577.

24th Div., 11th FA Bn., Btry. C., (Japan, 1952)—Seeking Melvin Lander—Elvin Merk, 3904 S Holbrook, Sioux Falls SD 57106.

38th Bde. Bp., 80th Bomb Sqdn., (Guam)—Reunion? A.P. Gergely, PO Box 27281 W. Portal Station, San Francisco CA 94127

1st Aviation Bde. Assn.—Seeking information about organization, which I joined last June, but have never received acknowledgement other than cancelled check, also need group's address—James Simpson, 1506 Haynor St., Galesburg IL 61401

84th Seabees—Seeking information to update address book—Jerry Hansen, 1115 Visalia Dr., Costa Mesa CA 92626

USS Heermann (DD-532) (1957) & USS Bowers (APD-40) (1958)—Reunion?—Clarence Cannon, RT 5 Chick Spring Rd., Taylors SC 29687

USS Gilmer (DD-233)—Seeking William Wyckoff and Jack Holderman—Robert Young, 602 Sury Rd Wenatchee WA 98801

579th Ord. Co., 227th Ord. Det., Nike Ptn.—Reunion?—Bernard Case, 109 S. Haley St., East Camden AR 71701

86th Div., 342nd Inf. Co. E. (WWII)—Seeking Jack Wood—E.P. Brown 2612 Harvard Ave., Durham ME 27703

945th FA Bn.—Reunion?—George Buck, 726 50th St., Des Moines IA 50312

continued on page 52

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continued from page 51

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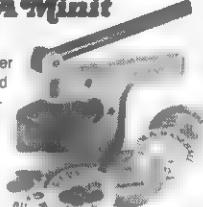
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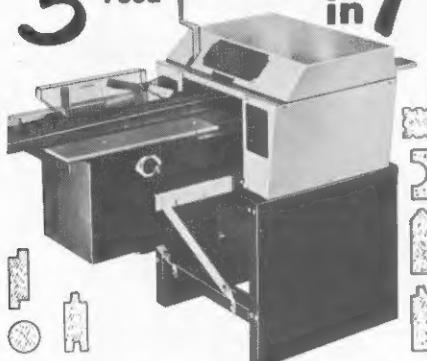
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continued on page 54

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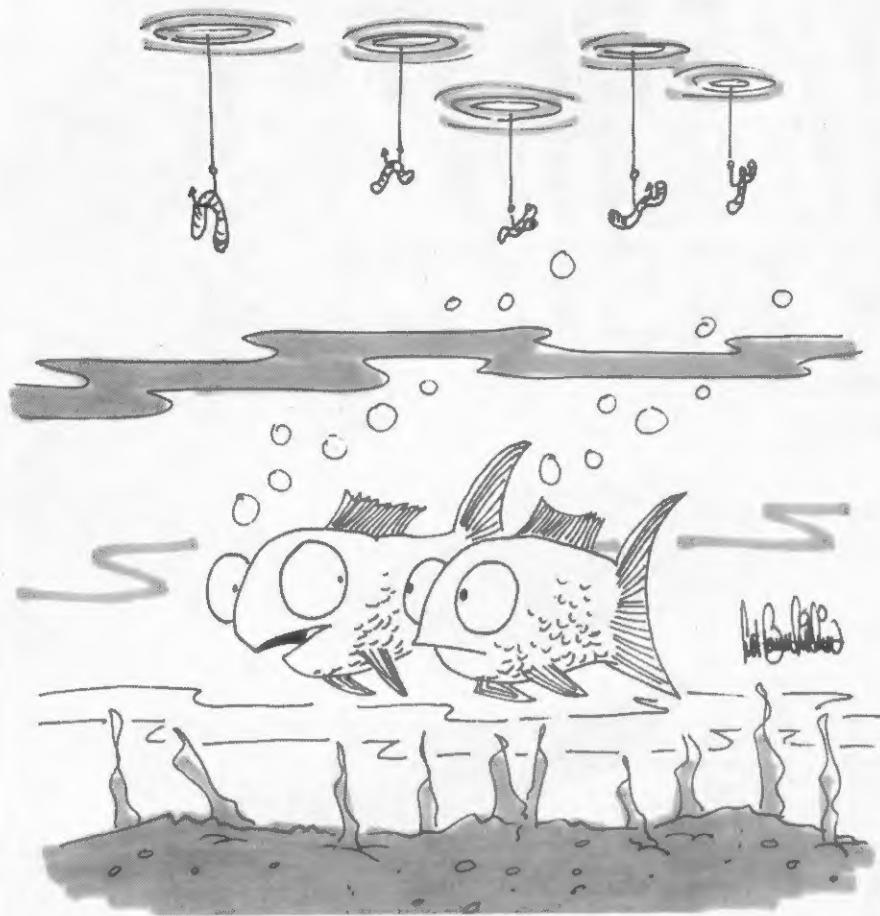
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SEEKING

continued from page 53



*... and some day they will try to tempt you
with a purple plastic worm.
Try not to bust a gut laughing."*

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"I'm sure you'll like Tom, Dad. I think he's a very nice young man."

"Yes, but does he have any money?"

"Oh, you men are all alike. Tom asked the very same thing about you."

Logic

Two youngsters were watching television on Saturday morning. Just as the adventure show came to a climax, Bill turned off the set.

"What did you do that for?" John asked.

"Because I gotta go to the bathroom and I don't want to miss anything."

Trust

Americans trust in God. You can tell by the way they drive.

Tact

A man who was fed up with people who dropped in without calling finally devised a plan.

"When my doorbell rings, I put on my coat and hat before I open the door. If it's someone I don't want to see, I merely say, 'I'm going out. So sorry.' If it's someone I want to see, I say, 'That's great timing. I just came in.'"

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"Half past four," replied Casey, glancing at his watch.

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He had been gone only a couple of minutes when he met a bear, dropped his gun and ran back to the cabin, with the bear right behind him. Just as he reached the cabin, he slipped and fell. The bear was going too fast to stop and skidded right in through the cabin door.

The greenhorn got up, closed the door, and from outside shouted: "Skin that one now, and I'll go get us another."

John Barleycorn

One mother related that she learned how well she had taught her children the evil of liquor when her youngest, a TV cowboy fan, brought her a picture he had drawn of a cowboy in a saloon.

"But don't worry, Mother," he quickly assured her. "He isn't going to drink anything. He just went in there to shoot a man."

Relax

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